

GAS WATCH 98

Community Contribution by AGL Energy during 2010.

Here are just a few of the more important contributions to the Broke and Bulga communities from **AGL** this last year.

- Deliberately and intentionally dumped an admitted 120,000 litres of contaminated water onto pasture land, killing the vegetation. Department ordered rehabilitation. Ombudsman and Auditor-General currently reviewing the Departmental investigation. Eyewitnesses say that the real contamination could have been over 300,000 litres. Either way, an act of environmental vandalism still under investigation, and this is only the exploration phase.
- Reported this organization to the Police, so **AGL** claims, as a result of bringing to the notice of the community and the regulators this dumping of contaminated water.
- Failed to vote to support the continuation of the Broke Bulga Community Consultative Committee, dissolved by Minister Whan, calling the CCC an “*activist group*”. Did not divulge whether or not they had made any representations to the Government regarding the dissolution of the CCC.
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- **AGL** Chairman announced at its AGM “*Since 1837 we have been selling lethal products. We sell products that can kill people – gas and electricity. And we don’t kill people.*” Nonsense of course. These products do kill people. But **Coal Seam Methane Gas exploration/extraction can kill the whole environment upon which the Hunter relies to survive and produce food for the people of Australia.**
- Continued to conduct activities which, in the view of a local Real Estate Agent “*if the proposed (coal seam methane gas) mining is located in close proximity to residential or rural residential areas then the effect on property prices could be devastating. If the impact was severe it could result in property in that vicinity becoming unsaleable.*”
- Overall, continued to explore for coal seam methane gas, which is an unsustainable fossil fuel with a short production life, but ruining long term agriculture;
- threatened the fresh groundwater relied upon by farmers in the Upper Hunter by drilling through fresh water aquifers into toxic coal seams below;
- was the subject of noise complaints from generators operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week only 200 metres from the village of Broke. This noise was keeping people awake at night;
- pumped hundreds of thousands of toxic saline water from deep coal seams to the surface and was unsupervised as to how it disposed of that water, resulting in the deliberate dumping;
- is threatening to build a gas field on prime agricultural land with wells possibly as close as 200 metres apart;

- is threatening the health of the people who live in the Upper Hunter;
- is threatening the land value and the livelihoods of hundreds of Hunter residents and businesses.
- Is ignoring the fact that the Hunter wine and tourism industry injects \$1.8 billion annually into the NSW community and employs 10,000 people. Sydney Gas once told us that the Coal Seam Methane Gas industry, once in its extraction stage, would employ probably 2 people – security guards.
- Is ignoring the fact that of their 21,000 square kilometre exploration areas, the 7 square kilometre area of Broke and Bulga has only about 2.5 square kilometres of surface area available to them, and that in the middle of vineyard and tourism areas.
- Refuses to rule out constructing a huge industrial gas treatment plant or a water treatment plant on land next to the Broke village.
- Refuses to instigate an environmental assessment of the Hunter Valley and the cumulative impacts of its activities, relying on the old adage of “we are working within the law” – and to hell with the environment it appears.
- In an effort to pretend green credentials, is running a vineyard in Broke in direct competition with local wine growers.
- Lodged plans a massive evaporation pond adjacent to its current activities near Broke, with saline water evaporating and leaving behind salt, and other contaminant, residue on the surface.
- Pretends that because one particular well near the Broke village does not show a direct connection between the fresh ground water aquifer and the salty coal seam aquifer, that this will be the same throughout the valley. Again proven nonsense.
- Announced at a CCC meeting that – *“There is no requirement for us to listen to anybody.”*
- Made false claims in its paid advertisement in the Cockfighter.
- And in another guise, announced significant increases in electricity prices for its customers resulting in the ACCC accusing **AGL** of “price gouging” according to the ABC and “most needy residents being the victims of appalling bungling by **AGL**”, according to the Herald Sun. That is the sort of a Company are we dealing with.

Thanks for ruining our year, **AGL**. May your share price plummet.

To our community: Have a Happy New Year. Keep up the fight to rid ourselves of this fossil fuel ferret, **AGL Energy**, and save our precious Hunter Valley (“a jewel in NSW’s crown” – Andrew Stoner, leader National Party) for our childrens’ future.



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