

From: Maurice Dowson <dowson@fishinternet.com.au>
To: Director General <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/02/2011 11:17 pm
Subject: Gas Project - Additional Borehole Modification - Assessment 10th February 2011
23:16:53

Mining and Industry Projects
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Fax: (02) 9228 6466
Email: plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

Subject: Gas Project - Additional Borehole Modification - Assessment

Reference: MP.07 0103 - MOD 1

Dear Director General,

The film GasLands exposed the hitherto unrecognised risks to public health, drinking water supplies and un-audited releases of methane to the atmosphere. Methane is more than 20 times more potent as a Greenhouse Gas than CO2, thus a dangerous contributor to Climate Change, and the IPCC should be called upon to quantify and comment on, methane releases from the thousands of 'fracked' drill sites in the USA.

Clearly, 'fracked' seams can release uncollected methane and toxic chemicals over large areas, and over the 'longer-term', in an uncontrolled manner.

The general public will be horrified to learn of the risks to their drinking water supplies sourced from the Illawarra Escarpment areas.

Who will be held responsible, and accountable, for subsequent public health problems, should they arise, and with what penalties if litigation ensues?

I call on Department of Planning to reject this amendment to the previous approval granted to Apex Energy NL for the purpose of additional exploration and gas monitoring borehole with associated infrastructure and site access.

I call on Department of Planning to immediately stop all Part3A applications.

I call on Department of Planning to include ALL previous submissions opposing inappropriate development in this area including:

- 1994 Helensburgh Commission of Inquiry;
- various rounds of submissions from 1995 to 2009 to Wollongong City Council on the rezoning of 7d lands at Helensburgh, Otford and Stanwell Park;
- over 3,00 submissions against the 2010 Willana Report; and
- the latest submissions in response to the Wollongong City Council "Preliminary Review Report" which total over 18,500 submissions.

Which total well over 45,000 submissions on these environmentally sensitive lands.

I also refer Department of Planning to Premier Keneally's decision to stop the Tillegra Dam in the face of 2,800 submissions against that project.

I quote "The project is not in the public interest" and "...the precautionary principle should be invoked..." and "...uncertainty about the impacts of the project..." and "...is of the view that the proposal is not in the public interest and should be refused..."

If 2,800 submissions can mobilize a Premier to stop a dam, Department of Planning must apply the same principles used by Premier Keneally in the Tillegra Dam and STOP this project entirely - construction has not started on Sydney Catchment Authority lands and NOW is the time to make sure it NEVER happens.

A two week period for submissions on such an important issue is clearly not in the public interest. I look forward to the Premier personally intervening to stop this project.

Yours faithfully,

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