

From: Sally Chapman <yarras.sal@gmail.com>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 26/02/2011 8:04 am
Subject: Apex Eneregy a/19 Borehole Expansion SUBMISSION

Dear Major Projects Assessment Committee,
I make this submission regarding Apex Energy's A/19 Borehole Expansion request, currently under consideration.

The proposed A/19 Borehole is to be located in pristine bushland that is also an essential remaining wildlife corridor. Extensive clearing will be required for the development.

Most significant of all is the fact that the Borehole is to be established in a key Sydney water catchment. Past experience shows that exploration leads to approvals for developments that should never occur. Sydney has already been forced to build a desalinisation plant to secure water supplies for an ever expanding population, yet we are willing to place our water supply in potential jeopardy.

The contamination of groundwater supplies is an identified risk in the process of "fracking". The BTX chemicals used in the chemical process are known carcinogens. Additionally, the leaching of methane gas has serious health and climate effects.

My deep concern regarding this issue stems from the fact that my aged mother lives in Warren, Pennsylvania. This is a scenically glorious area being made unfit for human habitation by fracking to extract "coal seam gas". The health and amenity of many communities have been severely damaged by this industry. Anecdotal evidence of similar consequences for landholders and communities in Australia is becoming overwhelming.

Assessors, this is an industry with serious issues to face. The process of "fracking" is fraught with unacceptable risk for a significant water catchment. The haste to cash in is not seemly under the circumstances. The resource will still be there, waiting, when the environmental and health issues have been solved.

I hope you will consider these comments when making your determination.

Yours truly,
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