

Jessie Giblett - Submission Details for Prue Bodsworth (object)

From: Prue Bodsworth <newcastle@wilderness.org.au>
To: <clay.preshaw@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 9/14/2012 4:16 PM
Subject: Submission Details for Prue Bodsworth (object)
CC: <assessments@planning.nsw.gov.au>

 Department of Planning

Confidentiality Requested: no

Disclosable Political Donation: no

Name: Prue Bodsworth
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Content:

The Wilderness Society Newcastle are extremely concerned about the proposal by Apex Energy to drill for coal seam gas within Sydney's drinking water catchments. This is a high risk activity not only for the environment and Sydney's waterways but also for public health. By definition the water that falls within the catchment for a water storage will end up in the water storage and carry any pollutants with it. The coal seam gas industry similar or other oil and gas industries has a high likelihood for spills of untreated produced water, mixing of water from coal seams with freshwater aquifers, overflows from storage ponds and contamination of water by air-borne pollutants such as those caused by flaring that include carcinogenic compounds including BTEX chemicals. We strongly recommend that our water catchments be protected from industrial activities as pollutants created by this industry and disturbed soils will inevitably end up in our water storage.

We would like to call for a moratorium on the exploration and expansion of the Coal Seam Gas industry in Australia. With reference to this proposal our concerns are:

Risk of contamination of the water table.

CSG has been shown to have detrimental effects on the environment, health and communities. Chemicals and compounds involved with CSG mining can be unintentionally released into the surrounds even without their use by the industry. Many are present in the coal seams and are brought to the surface with extraction. The banning of these chemicals from the extraction process will not stop them seeping into the groundwater or prevent accidental contamination of surrounding are as through accidental spillage of 'produced' water, or permeation from evaporative ponds into the groundwater, streams and rivers. Contamination cannot be easily remediated.

Unacceptable risk of damage to the health

As well as the contamination of the water there are toxins released into the air by the gas flares at well sites. There is a possibility that the reduction in pressure when ground water is extracted will cause a drop in the ground/bore water leaving it inaccessible to current bore water users. Other impacts are noise, dust and sound pollution, increased traffic, and destruction and fragmentation of habitat. Considering the recent suggestion that wind farms have a buffer of 2 km from dwellings, it seems that the 200 meters required for CSG is totally unacceptable.

Contribution to global warming is unacceptable.

CSG has been put forward as a transition fuel and is considered to have a lower carbon footprint than coal. Although it is true that the burning of gas is more efficient and releases less carbon than the burning of coal, if the leakage of methane into the atmosphere is taken into account the overall impact over a hundred year period would be only slightly better than coal. The Global Warming Potential of methane is 21 times that of carbon. It is important we don't replace emissions of carbon with methane. Wells do leak. A recent Queensland report found that over 50% of the wells tested were leaking.

If gas is considered a transition fuel to a low carbon economy, why the haste to expand the industry to take advantage of the export markets now? CSG is risky and non-conventional. Surely it would be better to look into other less risky non-conventional methods of power generation that are not reliant on finite fossil fuel reserves. Wind power and solar-thermal power could allow us cleaner and carbon-free energy into the future.

We strongly recommend that you do not allow coal seam gas drilling in Sydney's water catchment and introduce legislation for the water catchment of critical town and agricultural water supplies throughout NSW.

Prue Bodsworth
The Wilderness Society Newcastle

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Submission: Online Submission from Prue Bodsworth (object)

https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view_diary&id=41660

Submission for Job: #5550 Apex Gas Exploration Project Mod 2

https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view_job&id=5550

Site: #877 Illawarra Coal Seam Gas

https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view_site&id=877

&nb sp;

Prue Bodsworth

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