

"Sample Submission no. 1 – ALL SUBURBS"

Prepared by Narellan Action Group

OUR OPPOSITION TO AGL Coal Seam Gas Expansion

Page 1 of 2

INSTRUCTIONS - Use this only as a guide – rewrite in your own words - edit - add your own ideas – mix and match – cut and paste – "quote" media reports - READ DAILY & LOCAL NEWSPAPERS - express your feelings – a little controlled anger is fine – get your kids researching AGL and COAL SEAM GAS FRACING CHEMICALS websites and writing submissions as well !! You can turn the tone of this sample submission up or down to suit your message.

BE EARLY - OUR DEADLINE IS - FRIDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2013

-----START OF SAMPLE SUBMISSION -----

EMAIL TO: plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

"without prejudice"

POST TO: THE DIRECTOR, MINING AND INDUSTRY PROJECTS
NSW DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, GPO BOX 39, SYDNEY, NSW, 2001

Dear Director of Mining and Industry Projects NSW,

Reference : SUBMISSION OPPOSING AGL COAL SEAM GAS (AGL-CSG)
CAMDEN GAS PROJECT – NORTHERN EXPANSION (Stage 3)
Project Application No. 09_0048

My family moved to.....(SUBURB NAME) in 2005 for the great location, employment opportunities and a great lifestyle for our 3 children. With a selection of new and established schools, Campbelltown TAFE, the University of Western Sydney, Industrial Estates, Employment Zones, Town Centres and Sporting Facilities close by it seemed a perfect place to settle down for the long-term and raise a family.

Unfortunately, my youngest son has developed asthma since we moved here. We did not realise that the air quality is deceptively poor – in fact, the worst polluted atmospheric **Airshed** in Greater Sydney. If we can't breathe here, we can't live here. **Air Quality** is the critical health issue for all of us out here.

Recently we became aware of the proposed expansion of AGL Coal Seam Gas drilling, mining and '**fracing**' or '**fracturing**' under our homes, schools, workplaces, football fields, cricket ovals, leisure centres, our community halls, our churches, our petrol stations, our overhead bridges, open spaces and catchment areas.

If we had known about the AGL-CSG expansion we would have avoided the area and a \$450,000 life-time mortgage in a suburb destined for degrading and devaluing. It doesn't make any sense at all!

'**Fracing**' is actually "**FRACTURING**" – **breaking and cracking the sub-surface under us**. AGL falsely compares its '**fracing**' chemistry to 'harmless' products on a laundry shelf, when in fact the real chemicals in vast quantities are highly volatile producing toxic gaseous and particulate emissions to earth, water and air. AGL Consultants have been grossly dishonest and deceitful in their minimal description of '**fracing**' processes.

Despite misleading media reports AGL-CSG will definitely 'frac' under us. AGL's intentions are very clear in both their 2010 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT at Chapter 4.2 and in the 2012 MAIN REPORT at Chapter 3.4.

We are not against mining at all. However, introducing toxic and dangerous AGL Coal Seam Gas mining under our existing permissible land use zones of established and populated communities is totally inappropriate in every respect, and absolutely beyond our belief.

AGL conceals its toxic '**fracing**' chemistry behind claims of '**commercial confidentiality**'. We do know that AGL use concentrated acids and biocides among a huge list of chemical cocktails triggering volatile chemical reactions in coal and sandstone seams underneath our homes and schools. The fact that AGL will not disclose its '**fracing toxicology**' is absolutely absurd – a nightmare with disastrous health and environmental consequences.

Mining is the most accident riddled industry in Australia. Mixing mining and untested chemistry under our homes as we sleep is a disastrous formula for **major critical incidents**. We don't need the threat of disaster, totally '**fracing**' our dreams into nightmares, for over 20 years of sleeps, after busy days at school and work.

Do you and Minister Hazzard fully comprehend the potential implications of cumulative long-term toxic emissions to our earth, our water and breathing atmosphere? Have your planning experts fully analysed AGL's documents to find the serious omissions and false '**conceptual modelling**' promoted as acceptable science?

We understand that AGL-CSG drilling, mining and 'fracing' under our populated and established communities is totally new to urban Australia. Is South Western Sydney AGL's and the O'Farrell Government's test case to expand toxic mining under metropolitan Sydney?

If you proceed with AGL's proposal you will be opening the pathway for a **massive class action** against all the decision makers, back door dealers and promoters of this toxic and hazardous industry.

We are not your "**westie lab rats**". We are not your experiment in 'social injustice' and socio-economic and environmental degradation? Don't do it in anyone's backyard. We know you'll never allow it in yours!

The major reasons why my family opposes the entire AGL Coal Seam Gas Expansion include – Threats to Air Quality and health

- Well documented historic poor air quality across the 'project area' and Greater South Western Sydney
- Serious health risks including dramatic increases in respiratory diseases and asthma
- South Western Sydney already has the highest incidence of hospital admissions for asthma
- Dangerously incomplete physical and chemical analysis of Coal Seam Gas '**fracing**' processes
- Potential for long term undetected gaseous leaks forming toxic fugitive plumes in our breathing space
- Risks of uncontrollable toxic particulate emissions to earth, air and water threatening our communities
- Will the ICAC belatedly examine the post political mining careers of suspect politicians as we choke in AGL's neuro-toxins and overcrowd the very limited health resources in Sydney's South West?

Threats to Our Natural Environment - Geology and Hydrology

- Long term geological damage to – drinking water, water aquifers, water tables, creek beds and rivers
- Contamination of South Creek and Narellan Creek feeding the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment
- Structural damage to the Sydney Water Supply Channel undermined by at least 6 parallel drilling locations in our area at CU02, CU06, CU10, CU14, CU20 and CU22 – each with 6 wells
- Structural damage to built environments and dangerous land slip in a predominantly clay sub soil
- Expansion and shrinkage of clay and shale sub-structures causing fracturing to gas pipes
- Irreversible damage to native flora and fauna, soil, and vegetation
- Risks in waste management of by-products including neuro-toxin particulates in earth, water and air

Contradictory and Incompatible Land Use Layering

- Allowing legally established and developed residential, commercial, educational and recreational zonings – all funded by our rates and statutory government taxes - to be undermined, compromised and degraded by a toxic and dangerous mining industry

Unpredictable Noise Disturbance - AGL-CSG Consultants noise studies are totally incompetent

- Inadequate credible studies into 24 hour drilling, mining and 'fracing' noise levels impacting on our health.
- Failure to acknowledge long term reflected and radiated sub-surface noise levels on sleeping disturbance patterns, neurological concerns given that the human perception of noise is six times greater at night time

Deeply Flawed Community Consultation - Lacking Honesty, Openness and Transparency

- AGL provided only 2 copies of the Environmental Assessment - one at Camden Council foyer and one at Campbelltown – and withdrew the original Environmental Assessment October of 2010 so that the community could not compare the original proposal with the amended Main Report October of 2012
- Positioning the exhibition period leading into Christmas when families and work force are busy in preparation for the holiday season.
- Failure by AGL to accept that many people do not have access to the internet, and those who have internet access would have great difficulty reading a 3000 page document on a computer screen
- Failure by AGL to provide complimentary CDs of their proposal to residents upon request – a practice of previous proponents of major projects
- Poorly advertised, and consequently poorly attended, information sessions at which AGL specialist consultants could not answer questions – but would make notes
- A poorly designed AGL-CSG website – a potluck table of contents, using out-of-date maps which do not clearly show the level of urban development, no index and illogical page numbering
- Using only small section and out of date maps so that it is impossible to view the enormity of the whole project when previous proponents have provided fold out A3 size maps
- Failure by AGL to show the 2,500 metre radius of each drilling footprint under homes, schools and creeks
- Using an unidentifiable AGL-CSG public relations spokeswoman, unqualified in mine engineering, as the front person quoted in daily papers while keeping faceless "experts" in the next room
- The AGL-CSG COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CCC) does not adequately represent the broader community and that it does not keep accurate minutes and report back to the broader community

Political Posturing and Decision Making Processes

- Concerns that you, your government departments, including Environment and Health, have not carried out complete, professional, expert and independent analysis of the AGL-CSG proposal
- Concerns that the Premier in the media has already indicated his approval for the AGL-CSG proposal pre-empting the decision making process by the PLANNING ASSESSMENT COMMISSION (PAC) - a 'selected' panel of "experts" to undertake a "merit review" of the project
- It doesn't help when Premier O'Farrell insults us (SMH 7.7.13 page 7 Editorial) by trivialising drilling lines as being the size of a "teacup" when in fact AGL state in **2012 MAIN REPORT at Chapter 4.3** that drilling varies from **178mm to 2000mm** in diameter in the 'fracing' reaming process and the lines are up to 2,500 metres long. There does not seem to be even a token separation between AGL and some politicians.
- It is not up to me, my family, or members of our community to prove that AGL's Coal Seam Gas mining is a serious risk to our local life, health and future. Camden Council, the State Government's statutory authorities, Ministers, Cabinet, Premier and PLANNING ASSESSMENT COMMISSION panel are the ultimate consenting authority, with a "duty of care" to all residents of South Western Sydney. It is your collective responsibility to protect our health, living, learning, working and recreational environments.
- Politicians, AGL and PAC Members do not have an anti-social licence to degrade our family lifestyle, our home, our backyard, our pools, our chook shed, our pigeon loft, our greyhound run, our veggie patch, our soil, our water, our air and the vital future of our communities.

We totally oppose the entire AGL-CSG Camden Expansion Proposal and expect that all consenting authorities do likewise. Could you please reply promptly, confirming that you have received my (family) submission.

Yours Faithfully

Signature(s).....

Full Name(s).....

Address.....

[Signature]
 JANE BROWN
 55 HINDSLEY ST, CAMPBELLTOWN, N.S.W. 2560

OUR DEADLINE IS - FRIDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2013

"write early, write often"

Copy and pass on

From: Lynn Quinn <l.quinn@optusnet.com.au>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 1/17/2013 11:01 am
Subject: Don't Sacrifice Greater Western Sydney to Coal Seam Gas

MY ADDRESS:

Re: Camden Gas Project Stage 3, Project Application 09_0048

Please accept this as a submission on the Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion which is currently on public exhibition. I object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to drill for coal seam gas in Western Sydney.

Please put the health and wellbeing of the people of Greater Western Sydney above the profits of AGL who plan to expand their gas field around and under people's homes and businesses.

I urge you to reject the proposal by AGL to drill 66 new coal seam gas production wells on the grounds that:

- Reports from Queensland and overseas show that there are serious risks to air quality and human health from unconventional gas drilling. However there have been no detailed studies done to quantify those risks especially in urban areas. The people of Camden and Campbelltown should not be treated like guinea pigs in a coal seam gas experiment.
- People's homes should not be undermined by coal seam gas drilling without their knowledge or permission.
- Homeowners face declining property values within and adjoining coal seam gas fields with some estimating house values may fall up to 30%.
- The integrity of gas wells can't be guaranteed and research from gas fields in Queensland and the US has shown many fail in their first few year. This will leave the community to deal with the impact of leaking wells on air quality and local water supplies.
- New research from Southern Cross University on methane gas leaks from coal seam gas fields has not been considered in the proposal. AGL has not conducted these studies to account for methane leakage on their existing coal seam gas wells.
- Despite research from the Queensland and the US suggesting ground water contamination and gas leaks from fracking, the proposal by AGL will allow fracking.
- The impacts of horizontal drilling have not been adequately considered in the Environmental Assessment.
- There are alternatives to coal seam gas, including renewable energy which can offer energy security without the unacceptable environmental and health risks posed by coal seam gas extraction.

Yours sincerely,
Lynn Quinn