

Jessie Giblett - Submission Details for Gregory Petty (object)

From: Gregory Petty <gapetty@bigpond.com>
To: <clay.preshaw@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 9/14/2012 11:49 AM
Subject: Submission Details for Gregory Petty (object)
CC: <assessments@planning.nsw.gov.au>

 Department of Planning

Confidentiality Requested: no

Disclosable Political Donation: no

Name: Gregory Petty
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Content:

1. The area of the Illawarra upper escarpment is completely unsuited to CSG mining consisting almost entirely of SWA drinking water catchment "Special Areas" and dams, National Parks and other environmental preservation or conservation areas. It is also a high risk bush fire area which is exacerbated by its highly combustible peat base: This months bush fire ran through and burnt out APEX drill sites 9 and 10. This is a unique and highly sensitive upland swamp area, whilst production CSG mining is an extensive and environmentally invasive industrial activity that will result in 150+ well pads and associated above ground infrastructure on the escarpment. This activity will permanently damage and or change the ecology.

2. The risks of CSG mining are now well documented (especially those relating to water contamination) and current NSW CSG control legislation acknowledged as inadequate for managing this risk - The NSW Premier reconfirmed this only yesterday in his interview with Alan Jones. The revised NSW Government regulatory framework has yet to be released and it would be improper to proceed prior to APEX being assessed against these requirements.

3. The area is already under threat from massive coal mine expansion using long wall mining technologies. I understand that in the case of the Gujarat mine at Bulli the scale is 10x and at the Helensburgh Colliery 3x. There Warratah rivulet near Helensburgh that feed the Woronora dam has already subsided and gone underground as a result of Long Wall mining at the Metropolitan coal mine and 18 months of remedial work has failed to resolve the problem. Therefore the risks associated with CSG mining are being layered on top of the existing impact of extensive coal mining in the area - with no combined impact study yet undertaken!.

4. The applicants (APEX Energy) have already shown their incompetence and unsuitability by allowing a PEL to lapse through default, as a result of an "administrative oversight" What if the result of the next "oversight" is contamination or fire in our catchment, or environmental conservation areas?
 The lapsed PEL cancels all current APEX CSG approvals therefore, at the very least, no consideration should be given to extensions or any other type of approval for APEX until this matter is resolved

5. There is widespread public opposition to CSG mining in the area. This includes a public petition of around 20,000 signatures delivered to the Premier, formal votes against CSG mining by 4 local councils (Wollongong, Wollondilly, Cambleton and Sutherland), and at least 2 local state MP (Lee Evans and Ryan Park). Major concerns exist around the original approvals forced through by the previous Labour government under part 3A of the NSW planning Act , which bypasses many of the usual and expected environmental and public consultation processes. I am very concerned by the absence of independent research into the environmental impact of CSG in such a vital area of water supply (let alone the combined impact of CSG and mining) and the lack of public consultation: Specifically APEX Energy did not enter into public consultation before its initial drilling at Darkes Forest, nor earlier this year before drilling within the Warragamba water catchment at Oakdale - this shows total lack of respect for due process and public opinion .

6. Any decision to extend, renew, or otherwise approve new activities in and around the water catchments flies in the face of commitments made by The Premier of NSW (Barry O'Farrell that there shall be no mining (including CSG mining) in our water catchments ' NO IFS, NO BUTS!'

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Submission: Online Submission from Gregory Petty (object)
https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view_diary&id=41578

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

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