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(Name withheld), of Raby NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

There has been very little information put out to advise of the possible health risks to my family. I have elderly parents and young children all living in the effected area.

There are no benefits to us as residents only risks.

From: <Robyn>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/12/2012 10:09 pm
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.

From: [REDACTED]
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/12/2012 10:59 pm
Subject: CAMDEN GAS PROJECT STAGE 3, PROJECT APPLICATION 09_0048

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a resident of local area, I would like to express my opposition to the planned gas project in Camden/Campbelltown area by AGL. I believe it is not acceptable to proceed with such a project near residential area, given the possible negative effects on the residents. I am very concerned about this. Australia has many places with natural resource with opportunities to explore without impact on human population.

I wish my name and personal detail to remain private and not disclosed to public.

Thank you and regards,

[REDACTED]

From: Annette Sheehan <annettesheehan@bigpond.com>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/12/2012 7:53 pm
Subject: Don't Sacrifice Greater Western Sydney to Coal Seam Gas

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,
Annette Sheehan

***** please withhold my address from publication

5th December, 2012

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

LEUMEAH NSW 2560

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

Dear Sir/Madam

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

Both my husband and I object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas in Campbelltown and Camden. The reasons for our objection are stated below.

AGL's plan will have negative effects on our green spaces and will make detrimental changes to our health and welfare. While there are many unanswered questions regarding this project there are many examples already in Australia and worldwide. We do not want our community to be polluted and we are extremely concerned about the health ramifications. This is not what we voted for in the last NSW election.

I do not want our names to be made public

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**(Name withheld), of MACARTHUR SQUARE NSW,
made the following submission on the project:**

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

i am AGAINST this application and project in residential and agriculture areas

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(Name withheld), of Woodbine, Sydney NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

To: The NSW Minister for Planning
8/12/12

Against the Northern Expansion of Camden Gas Project Application Number 09_0048.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I say tomato, you say tom-ah-to. Extraction processes of shale gas and coal seam gas have many things in common: environmental damage, unknown long-term impacts on geology, water, health, and society; and the liberal use of hydraulic fracturing, a method wrought with such destructive capabilities that must make its inventor cringe as much as Einstein did with his work involving creation of the atomic bomb.

I strongly object to AGL's proposal to extract coal seam gas in Campbelltown. Firstly, let me talk to the elephant in the room: health.

Work done by Southern Cross University found methane levels were 2.1 ppm outside the gas field, and 6.89 ppm within Tara; the latter bore the fingerprint of Coal Seam Gas, much like the methane bubbling through Condamine River in Queensland. The implications for health are damning: the methane leakage is diffuse and not localised: much like advanced cancer caused by the volatile organic compounds that the CSG industry emits, and which these high levels of methane may well be an indicator of, in Tara's air.

Methane from CSG, contrary to AGL's smarmy advertising campaign, is not on the road to renewable energy. When lost as fugitive emissions, this gas will negate the advantages natural gas likes to tout over coal. Only 2-4% need to be lost for this to happen, because methane is a potent global warmer, 21 times more so than carbon dioxide over a 100 year period, and 72-105 times more over a 20 year period. But maybe the big rollers and shakers of politics now, don't care about a 20 years, let alone a 100 years. Nevertheless, Tom Wigley from the US National Center for Atmospheric Research has this to say: "unless leakage rates for new methane can be kept below 2%, substituting gas for coal is not an effective means for reducing the magnitude of future climate change". I wonder then, how CSG is heralded by Big Gas as the transition point to cleaner energy.

Methane, volatile organic compounds, and diesel emissions from the transport machinery associated with coal seam gas mining have resulted in unacceptable levels of ground ozone, much higher in rural areas of Wyoming and Utah than the worst smog in Los Angeles. People in Campbelltown, would rather not breathe ozone and

suffer asthma and chronic lung disease, thank you very much. Natural gas extraction processes have been associated with a myriad of chemicals polluting the air, with some of the highest concentrations of methane, ethane, propane, and other alkanes, which students in this area should be experimenting on in Chemistry labs whilst wearing personal protective equipment, and should not be breathing in freely.

There is a loss of landscape, livelihood, economy, rural living, mental wellbeing and sense of community ownership if this proposal succeeds to be passed by the Department. The latter would be because the community is adamant about not wanting CSG mining and will feel disempowered would the government not listen.

What has the industry proposed for the management of salt, water, heavy metals, volatile organic compounds (including BTEX, which although banned, can still be mobilised in the de-watering or fracking process) and radioactive isotopes produced by CSG? In Queensland, 750,000,000 kilos of waste salt will be produced from 40,000 planned wells. 300 Giga litres of GROUNDWATER will be extracted annually for CSG compared to extraction from the Great Artesian Basin of 540 Giga litres for all purposes. This jeopardises Australian water security, in an era when water is recognised as the sustenance of our planet's life.

Furthermore, AGL proposes to run its gas gathering pipeline along Sydney's Upper Canal, endangering Sydney's water quality. Mining in suburban Sydney cannot assure safety of aquifers when AGL themselves don't know where our aquifers flow to, hazarding a guess at 'probably Sydney Harbour'.

Environmental Protection Agency in U.S.A. found that drinking water in Pavillion, Wyoming was not safe to drink with 10 fracking chemicals including the carcinogens benzene and toluene. If you dismiss this as a shale gas occurrence only, then without saying 'potato- pot-ah-to' please show Sydneysiders that this does not occur with coal seam gas. In three separate incidents, BTEX chemicals have already contaminated water bores in Queensland; at the Walloon Coal Measures, there was fracking-related contamination of the Springbook aquifer; in Pilliga Forest, 10,000 Litres of wastewater destroyed vegetation. What guarantee can the Department provide this will not occur in residential areas, and how willing is the Minister to bear the potential for such damage in Campbelltown on his hands?

There is also a significant threat to agriculture: farming land for well pads are 1 hectare each, every 750 metres; roads built have to be 6m. wide, and what of the waste disposal? We don't want to see the beautiful countryside of Camden networked by roads, pipelines, well pads, and fences; we don't want contamination of water, soil, crops, feedstock, and ultimately affecting livelihoods, like it already has in Queensland where BTEX contamination resulted in prized Australian beef not being produced by the quarantined cattle.

What happens to farmers? Animals are continually exposed to air, soil, and groundwater. They reproduce frequently and are often heralded as scientific sentinels to the impacts on human health. A study by Bamberger and Oswald suggest the following: drilling fluid blowout was associated with stillborn calves and congenital defects, benzene and arsenic poisoning in humans, and 'serious health effects on humans, companion animals, livestock, horses, and wildlife' from exposure to gas drilling operations. The study calls for a ban on drilling to protect public health. This is a recurrent theme in the studies that have examined natural gas extraction and health: mining in residential areas is surely a breach of preventive health measures, and makes one reminisce about asbestos and tobacco's long-debated links to cancer.

Land value has also been contested by CSG at the NSW Parliament Inquiry:

"Many Inquiry participants argued that land values would diminish significantly if coal seam gas activities were to take place on a property. For example, Mr Dobbin of Rabobank stated that land assets are likely to be 'severely discounted' for a number of reasons, including a reduction in area of productive land, operational risks, the effect on property aesthetics, and the risk of future project expansion:

There will be a reduction in productivity and efficiency, particularly with precision farming, with the presence of infrastructure, wells, roads, pipelines, et cetera... The potential residual impact on property includes the risk of contamination of water and soil... There are operational risks of coal seam gas mining activities on the property, water access rights to the property and loss of privacy. There are the aesthetics of the property and a risk of future project expansion... We also see a number of unintended consequences arising from a reduction in rural land values. These include a corresponding reduction of credit available throughout rural communities from lower land values and serviceability.

A number of Inquiry participants shared the expectation that land values would fall, with some speculating that land values have already reduced even before activities have reached the production phase. For example, Ms Judi Sheedy, a representative of the NSW Farmers' Association in the Gunnedah district, insisted that 'already in our area we have seen a reduction in land values of 30 per cent and this is before any full blown production has occurred'.

Other Inquiry participants maintained that the effect on property values has meant that land sales have ceased altogether in some affected areas. This view was expressed by Mr Martin of the Southern Highlands Coal Action Group who described the phenomenon as though 'a big cloud has come over the area'. Mr Alan Lindsay, also of the Southern Highlands Coal Action Group, argued that before mining and extraction proposals were put forward for the Southern Highlands, properties were being sold without any problem. Now, he maintained, 'no land transactions are taking place':

The impact at the moment is that no land transactions are taking place. We do not know what the final impact will be. Talk to any real estate agent around the Southern Highlands--we know there is a potential global recession --but before these issues came up, the coal seam gas and coal mining issue, properties were being transacted without any degree of difficulty. The process has ground to a halt.

The Committee notes the anecdotal nature of much of this evidence but also acknowledges the personal experiences of a number of Inquiry participants who reported on the direct impact of coal seam gas activity on their ability to sell or buy land. For example, Mr Duffy, who lives near Gunnedah, explained that his property had failed to sell at auction and that the bids on offer reflected a substantial loss in value. He asserted that concerns surrounding Santos' nearby Kahlua pilot site had discouraged people from buying his land:

The agent who took our prospective buyers around... valued our property between \$1.3 and \$1.5 million for 1,500 acres. Each of the eight prospective buyers all expressed concern about what is happening with the gas. We actually went to auction about a month ago. We had two registered bidders. On advice of the agent he suggested that we put in an initial vendor's bid of \$900,000. The two registered bidders did not pursue that. So the auction failed. I spoke to both of the registered bidders afterwards and they replied that their concern about the gas was such that they were not prepared to take the risk. On the strength of that I now do not have the option of doing as I was choosing to do... The substantial asset I have built up over 25 years is probably one third the value. Similarly, the Committee heard from Bellata farmer Ms Tydd, who stated the she and her husband had been actively looking to buy a property but chose not to pursue their search because of proposals

to develop coal seam gas in their area:

Ms Judi Sheedy, Executive Councillor and Chair of Gunnedah District Council, My husband and I for the last five years have been actively in the property market attending auctions looking to buy a property to expand our own personal landholding. The minute those people arrived on our front gate I said to my husband, "It stops now." We have not attended one more auction... If someone is looking to sell property in our area, I will not be looking to buy it.

The reluctance to buy properties in farming areas was also observed by Mr Dobbin, who said that 'a lot of our clients are saying, 'I am not going to buy any more country because I am not sure what is going to happen'".

According to several Inquiry participants, it is this uncertainty which is consuming many landholders, particularly farmers who value their property as superannuation. According to the NSW Farmers' Association, many farmers rely on the knowledge that 'they can fund their retirement either by selling the asset or being supported by the next generation who takes it on'. They explained that certainty for the current and next generations about the future of their properties is being threatened by the 'insecurity of CSG exploration'.

Call me jaded or realistic, having surveyed the evidence available, it is my opinion that whilst there is little INDEPENDENT, publicly accessible data on CSG in Australia, the industry can continue to insist that CSG is benign. It is not, however, up to the residents of Sydney's suburbs to prove otherwise. It is up to you, the government, to verify the industry's spurious assertions by extensively studying the adverse impact of CSG in Australia as we know it. Your evidence will be damning, which leads me to cynically state that it is exactly the reason no such studies have yet been commissioned by the government. Until we have the guarantees of safety, I see no reason why the people of Western Sydney should be experimented on thus. The gas will always remain underground. Why the rush? Give time for technology and science to evolve so natural gas extraction can be done safely instead of the current obscene methods used and the chaos caused to all but Big Gas.

██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ Woodbine, NSW 2560 (as of 9/11/12).

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(Name withheld), of Bradbury NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

Campbelltown is one of the fastest growing areas in Australia with families choosing to live and raise their families here. How dare AGL come in and try to mine under our homes without scientific evidence available to us about the impact and the possible side affects on the health of the region. The impact on our parents who have lived here for over 50 years, us, our children and our grandchildren. What absolute arrogance. As an asthmatic I am concerned about the emissions. Also the noise levels. We have not been given the full details of the project just the propaganda by the big power companies. We know that other counties and states have banned fracking. It is not fair and we have the right to have a say and to protect this country and the health of our communities for the future generations. Where are the rights of the citizens of Campbelltown. Do the research, show us the evidence and give us the opportunity to contribute to the decision making. Those of us with chronic health issues do not need more aggravators in the air and we do not need our families put at risk. Please give us honesty and respect us and the land that we are borrowing from our children and their children. An angry resident of 52 years.

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(Name withheld), of Blair Athol NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

This type of development in a residential area is ridiculous. The potential damage to the environment, subsidence and my childrens health is threatend by this proposal.

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(Name withheld), of mount annan NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

I have just bought land in Gregory Hills and I am very concerned about the coal seam gas mines that are proposed in my area. I am very worried if it were to go ahead it will affect my health as well as my children. I strongly oppose these plans.

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(Name withheld), of Denham Court NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

The long term effects of coal seam gas drilling are still unknown yet the Camden area now has more wells than anywhere in the State. The wells are located close to built up areas including schools.

So who benefits from this other than AGL? Certainly not residents living in close proximity to gas mining where the effect on the environment including our water is not clear.

Stop the drilling until the science is clear.

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(Name withheld), of Leumeah NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

I am very concerned regarding CSG Mining in this area. I fear for the Health Problems of my family and many friends in this area. The subsidence under our homes and infrastructure, its like us local residents are being used as guinea pigs, no way can CSG Mining operate safely in our residential areas, its a disgrace. The residents of these areas have the right to disapprove of the CSG Mining, Myself & many others do not want this! for example gas leak in QLD left many families with health issues. Not happy with the project!

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(Name withheld), of LEUMEAH NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

The Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion should not proceed until a full, unbiased and independent environmental impact study is undertaken and the results published for comment.

In the same vein, all existing gas wells should be closed until this study is undertaken.

Until there is an iron-clad guarantee that the environment will not be vandalised further, that the aquifers will not be affected in any way, arable land will not be affected, and all existing and planned urban expansion will not be affected environmentally, structurally or monetarily, all current and planned CSG wells in the Macarthur-Wollondilly LGA's should be halted immediately.

If Australia (and NSW in particular in this case) is so short of gas, and AGL so short of income, then I suggest that both AGL and the state government make immediate representations to the federal government to stop exporting all gas from the north west shelf gas fields to Asia/China/Japan, and build the necessary infrastructure to allocate this gas to domestic consumption.

A prime example of a nation-building project.

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(Name withheld), of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

I strongly object to the AGL expansion as it will mean we will be living on top of a gas well with consequential land devaluation - see attachment.

I have made no political donations.

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(Name withheld), of Glen Alpine NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

I object to this project due to environmental and health reasons and its impact on the community.

This is absolutely disgraceful by the NSW government.

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(Name withheld), of Harrington Park NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

Hi, I am writing my submission as a future resident of Gregory Hills (we are building our family home there). As a family we strongly object to the gas project being run through residential suburbs without the real known health effects known. I have a young family as well do many other residents and our children and ourselves should not be subject to the unknown. I also strongly object to the well being placed in Gregory Hills (proposed CU02). For one it is very close to residential homes within Gregory Hills and Gledswood Hills. Health effects are unknown and there is always accidents which could prove to be very dangerous so close to homes. Secondly I do not want to see Gregory Hills Drive, a road used for residents to go home through, used for AGL trucks carrying potentially dangerous waste products. There are several schools proposed/approved within the area where many children will be there 30+hrs a week. I do not feel safe with AGL proposing the gas project through my suburb and have great concerns over my families health and safety if this is to go ahead. Surely there must be non residential areas that AGL could 'trial' their project and have it properly monitored to assess the potentially dangerous risks . Unless AGL can provide 100% assurance that there will be no accidents or leakages there will be no change to air and water quality, that no houses will be damaged and no one will get sick then this project should be shut down within residential areas.

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(Name withheld), of Ambarvale NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

We are told of just horizontal drilling program the will "criss cross" major parts of Campbelltown and surrounding areas. I'm told this will be 3/4 of a mile underground. What is your pollution control method and treatment?

This will I believe use a lot of fluid known as drilling mud which will either have to be treated at the drilling rig or taken away for treatment, how is this to be done? Are these procedures on display?

Will there be bore water samples taken and analyzed in strategic monitoring wells around targeted areas of project *BEFORE* drilling takes place. Who will have access to this before and after analysis?

Then come the second phase which is always "Fracking" again with the chemicals used what will be the pollution control for mud and chemicals?

In the past in Australia this has been afflicted by cowboys who left ate solutions to simply go into ground this is often only noticed months after they have left by visual "die off" as the bushland is slowly poisoned by salts used in fracking process

Is there any threat of underground fires with process. If so are there any successful way of putting them out?

What is your safety record and experience with horizontal drilling in Coal seams?

Would like to see references from community experiences from areas where this style of extraction has been done before.

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(Name withheld), of Rosemeadow NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

Drilling for gas near residential areas is a hazard to the health to the residents especially for the young and the old. Research has not shown that this way of obtaining gas is safe. it is unethical to put profit before safety. Furthermore, when all the gas has been extracted, the water supply and soil would have been degraded .

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(Name withheld), of Camden South NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

. I am deeply concerned about any coal seam gas exploitation taking place under my home as I am very aware of reported health effects in Queensland towns, such as Tara, where many families have suffered from skin irritation/rashes, burning eyes and respiratory tracts. Coal seam gas exploitation often involves a process called fracking, where water, sand and chemicals are injected into the gas well under high pressure to fracture the shale and open up fissures to allow the natural flow of gas out of the well. Many chemicals used in this process are dangerous and carcinogenic. Towns such as Tara have reported a foul smell around well sites and as previously mentioned many residents are suffering ill health effects. Coal seam gas exploitation also raises environmental questions. There are no long term studies to show the effects on water aquifers, and potential contamination of land due to the use of chemicals in the fracking process and gas escaping through the ground into farming/residential areas. There is also the concern of ground movement due to drilling and the effect on residential properties, for example cracking brickwork, etc in homes. I have several children in my house who already suffer from asthma, eczema and other complaints. We do not want this near our house or in our area!

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(Name withheld), of Clemton Park NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

We object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas in Campbelltown and Camden. The reasons for our objection are stated below.

This is a residential area, mining has no place here.

(1) AGL's plan for CSG mining (& fracking) of Sydney will industrialise our suburbs & green spaces with uncertain impacts on our health, environment, livelihoods and land

(2) (2) Campbelltown and Camden urban areas will be fracked!

As at December 2011 (according to information provided to the NSW Upper House Inquiry into Coal Seam Gas), 85% of the production wells in the Camden Gas Project area of Wollondilly, Camden and the outskirts of Campbelltown, had been fracked. This compares with statistics provided by Doctors for the Environment Australia to the 2011 Senate Inquiry (coal seam gas) of 10-40% of wells in Queensland. AGL has said it will continue to frack vertical wells in Stage 3 and will frack the horizontal wells if the technology permits it in the future.

3) Health & safety issues:

On the 14th November 2012, academic researchers from the Southern Cross University in Queensland found methane levels at 3.5 times the expected level at the Tara Estate in Queensland. We don't want our area to face the same issues.

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(Name withheld), of St Andrews NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

Campbelltown is a residential area. It is totally inappropriate to even consider putting this type of industrial development in a residential area. The community should not be used as guinea pigs to test a technology which has been proven by experiences in U.S.A. to have negative effects on both the environment and the health of neighbouring residents. I would urge everyone to watch the film "Gasland" to understand why the N.S.W. Government should not be considering this proposal which will destroy both the environment and the health of the local community.

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(Name withheld), of Eschol Park NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

I cannot put into words how strongly we feel this application should be rejected. Our future is here in Eschol Park. Please ensure it will be a safe one. Below is a letter we've posted to Brian Doyle, Brad Hazard and members of Campbelltown City Council.

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(Name withheld), of Woonona NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

I object the Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion proposal on the following grounds:

The Scenic Hills are zoned Environmental Protection, prohibiting extractive industries and mines. State legislation allows this to be ignored and this development will industrialise an environmentally protected area.

AGL's main gas gathering pipeline will run beside the Upper Canal, part of Sydney's drinking water catchment. AGL also do not know where the aquifers in the area flow to but "probably Sydney Harbour".

AGL is an unsuitable proponent. There has been non-compliance with conditions of the Camden Gas Projects' Environmental Protection Licence each year since it was issued in 2004. AGL has also failed to conduct continuous air monitoring at its Rosalind Park Gas Treatment Plant for 3 years and is now the subject of an investigation by the Environment Protection Authority.

CSG mining poses risks to water, land and air that require further research. In this context, no new applications or modifications should be approved and existing projects should be frozen, to conduct an investigation into if and under what conditions CSG mining is safe.

Thank you



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(Name withheld), of Picton NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

I am OPPOSED to this CSG expansion. So close to populated areas, to the Sydney water supply canal, with so little known about the aquifer system in this area and the likely effects of CSG extraction on that system (particularly when fracking is potentially to be used), with AGL's non-compliance issues and not monitoring of air quality at Rosalind Park, not only should this application be refused, existing operations should be frozen until a full investigation is completed into if, or under what conditions, CSG extraction is safe.

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(Name withheld), of Eschol Park NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

I am a local resident opposing gas project in the backyard of my house.

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(Name withheld), of Mount Annan NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

My family and I are currently in the process of building a new home in Gregory Hills. Being in the middle of a developing residential area we were not aware that there was a coal seam gas well in Gregory Hills that was going to be a major player in AGL's plan to harvest gas from beneath the homes of residents across the Macarthur region.

While I am not an expert and can only rely on what I can read and see on television, I am concerned about the impact the this well and the 65 others around the Macarthur are will have on the lives of those of us who are living in the area. I can understand the need to drill for gas, but I can't understand the though processes that have gone in to someone making a decision that this is okay to do under people's homes.

History is full of examples of decisions like this being made and 20 years later when the the effects are seen on the environment and peoples health, and no one will buy peoples homes, those companies who made those decisions accept no responsibility. My major concern with this project is that there will be no recourse in the Land and Enviroment Court for those of us living in Gregory Hills if all of this goes pair shaped. While we have no option but to complete our home in Gregory Hills and will end up living in it, I want to see that there is a proper machanism for accountability for our lives, the lives of our families and the values of our homes.

I also cannot understand the logic behind the making of decisions that are "in the best interest of the community" and who gets to make those decisions.

We are part of a church opposite Mount Annan Botanical Gardens that a few years ago was prevented by the Land and Environment Court from building a larger building on our 37 acre property for our 1200 member congregation because it was felt that "we" (meaning the residents of Macarthur) didn't need an auditroium bigger than the "Opera House" in Macarthur. This was for a growing church doing great work in the community.

Yet surrounding that property approval is now being sought for coal seam gas wells that will have no positive benefit for the people of Macarthur at all. The only people who will benefit from this decision will be the shareholders of AGL and I am guessing that very few of them live in the houses that will be affected by this project. Where is the logic or the justice in these decisions.

I therefore wish to officially object to this proposal which sees well and drilling take place under people's homes, inlcuding my own.

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(Name withheld), of Camden South NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

the northern expansion should not go ahead while the jury was still out on nthe health and emmissions impacts of coal seam gas production. I am absolutely against this "fracking" practice in our residential areas which will affect the lives of myself and my children and grandchildren, as I feel it will have a damaging effect on our environment and water supply areas

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(Name withheld), of Campbelltown NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

There has been very little information about this project. Very little research done into the impact on our health, on our water quality. Have baseline studies been done?

Will you be able to tell us that no changes in air quality, health or water quality will be affected due to the mining??? I did not vote for a government with a policy of allowing fracking. This seems very underhanded. This is not what I voted for I will not vote for a party that allows fracking.

I believe there is plenty of evidence of methane emissions, health problems and problems with water. The Victorian Government has just banned it...
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-08-27/fracking3a-what27s-the-deal3f/4225572>

Who will fix the problems caused by CSG. Why is there the attitude frack now pay later?

We have no information at all from AGL about this. Please stop this Coal Seam Gas Mining.

I value my health, my air quality, my drinking water and my environment.

What about the salt deposits left behind the failed wells the damage to the layers in the earth below?

Subsidence, noise, water used (do we not live in a very dry country). Isn't their enough gas in Bass Strait.

I feel so desperate and helpless to stop this. PLEASE PLEASE STOP IT NOW! You can't turn the clock back.

See this story - I could go on all day with links for you.
<http://www.sbs.com.au/dateline/story/about/id/601341/n/Fracked-Off>

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(Name withheld), of Woodbine NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm attaching two separate submissions against the Camden Gas Project Stage Three Northern Expansion Project Application No. 09_0048.

The first is a group submission from medical students at the University of Western Sydney.

The second is an individual submission from myself. I lived in Campbelltown until November of this year, I've since relocated to Seven Hills but I still work and study at Campbelltown, and I'm invested in the community there.

Please confirm that both submissions have been received by the Dept. of Planning via email to [REDACTED]

Thank you, and hope you have a happy Christmas,

Nimna De Silva

- Attachment: [REDACTED] [Submission to NSW Dept Planning against AGL expansion of CSG project.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [Submission by Medical Students.pdf](#)

To The Mining & Industry Projects,

Department of Planning

Project No 09_0048

Submission Against Proposal

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm writing as a concerned resident of Greater Western Sydney, who has lived in Campbelltown for the last four years and who views this proposed expansion of Coal Seam Gas (CSG) extraction with dismay. I vehemently oppose AGL Energy's Camden Gas Project Stage Three Northern Expansion on multiple grounds detailed below, parts A to G.

A) Firstly, I am deeply concerned by the process of hydraulic fracturing or 'fracking' which AGL will be using to extract the gas. Fracking has been banned in France, Bulgaria, areas of the United Kingdom, the state of Vermont in the United States of America, and Quebec, Canada.^{1,2,3} The Natural Resources Minister for Quebec stated recently that "I cannot see the day when the extraction of natural gas by the fracking method can be done in a safe way."⁴ She has made a firm stand: "Our position is very clear: we want a complete moratorium, not only on exploitation but also on exploration of shale gas. We haven't changed our minds."⁵

The New Brunswick College of Family Physicians called for a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing, citing apprehension over the protection of 'valuable resources and the public's health by putting a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing development in New Brunswick until further research can prove that the benefits clearly outweigh the risks'. They go on to state: "We are particularly concerned about potential contamination of public water supplies, air pollution resulting from fracking operations, disposal of radioactive wastewater, possible spills of toxic chemicals, the health of children and pregnant women, only enumerating a few. ..." The letter concludes, "For all of the reasons above, we believe hydraulic fracturing is not the right choice for New Brunswick and we urge you to use the power of your legislation to suspend the development of this industry in our Province until further research is done."⁶

Locally, Doctors for Environment Australia with the National Toxics Network were also clear on their position against CSG and fracking in a combined media release on 15/11/2012:

'A recent independent university study of the atmosphere of a coal seam gas field near Tara, Queensland has shown evidence of widespread releases of methane and carbon dioxide concentrations.

Hotspot concentrations of methane were detected within the gas field that were more than 3 times higher than background levels found outside the gas fields. Activities such as drilling and hydraulic fracturing can release contaminants into sediments and aquifers, which escape into the air.

"Other air contaminants, such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs), were not measured as part of this study, but are known from studies overseas to be released from gas fields which are fracked" said Dr Mariann Lloyd-Smith, Senior Advisor to National Toxics Network.

A recent study looking at the human health risk assessment of air emissions from unconventional gas extraction published in the journal, *Science of the Total Environment*, found that residents living closest to gas wells had higher risks for neurological, respiratory and other health effects and higher cancer risks than those living further away.

"National Toxics Network recently undertook preliminary sampling of air and water in the Tara region and found evidence of the release of VOCs at the well-head 24 hours after being hydraulically fractured. These included known and suspected carcinogens like benzene and bromodichloromethane, as well as a range of other toxic compounds." said Dr Lloyd-Smith.

A number of Tara residents have been calling on the government for some time to investigate their health complaints. Symptoms reported included headaches, rashes, nausea and vomiting, nose bleeds, eye and throat irritation. *"While the cause of these symptoms have not yet been determined, they show many similarities to symptoms experienced by communities living in gas fields overseas. Hydrocarbon exposure cannot be ruled out as a cause without much more comprehensive investigation"* according to Dr Redmond.

"Unconventional gas development poses potentially serious as yet unassessed health risks" said Dr Redmond, and *"protecting the health and wellbeing of all Australians should be the priority."*

Doctors for the Environment and the National Toxics Network are calling for immediate action to protect the health and safety of local communities with funding of comprehensive transparent environmental testing and health impact assessment.⁷

The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA) questioning the rigour of the study by the Southern Cross University is irresponsible, not for the only reason it can critique (that the study is only in its preliminary phase) but because given the sinister results from Tara, APPEA should have requested the independent commission of exhaustive studies into addressing such distressing implications.^{8,9} APPEA and AGL come across as having 'something to hide' or being wilfully ignorant of the adverse effects from CSG.

B) Secondly, I am fearful for the health of pregnant women and young people who make up a significant proportion of this area's population. The American Academy of Paediatrics in its publication 'Paediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSU) Information on Natural Gas Extraction and Hydraulic Fracturing for Health Professionals' raised the multiple spectres of water contamination, air pollution, and noise pollution with specific emphasis on effects toxicants from fracking will have on the developing foetus and young child¹⁰:

'Water Contamination

One of the potential routes of exposure to toxics from the NGE/HF process is the contamination of drinking water, including public water supplies and private wells. This can

occur when geologic fractures extend into groundwater or from leaks from the natural gas well if it passes through the water table. In addition, drilling fluid, chemical spills, and disposal pit leaks may contaminate surface water supplies. A study conducted in New York and Pennsylvania found that methane contamination of private drinking water wells was associated with proximity to active natural gas drilling. (Osborne SG, et al., 2011). While many of the chemicals used in the drilling and fracking process are proprietary, the list includes benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene, xylene, ethylene glycol, glutaraldehyde and other biocides, hydrochloric acid, and hydrogen treated light petroleum distillates. These substances have a wide spectrum of potential toxic effects on humans ranging from cancer to adverse effects on the reproductive, neurological, and endocrine systems (ATSDR, Colborn T, et al, U.S. EPA 2009).

Air Pollution

Sources of air pollution around a drilling facility include diesel exhaust from the use of machinery and heavy trucks, and fugitive emissions from the drilling and NGE/HF processes. These air pollutants are associated with a spectrum of adverse health outcomes in humans. Increases in particulate matter air pollution, for example, have been linked to respiratory illnesses, wheezing in infants, cardiovascular events, and premature death (Laden F, et al, Lewtas J, Ryan PH, et al, Sacks JD, et al). Since each fracturing event at each well requires up to 2,400 industrial truck trips, residents near the site and along the truck routes may be exposed to increased levels of these air pollutants (New York State DEC/DMR, 2009). Volatile organic compounds can escape capture from the wells and combine with nitrogen oxides to produce ground-level ozone (CDPHE 2008, CDPHE 2010). Due to its inflammatory effects on the respiratory tract, ground-level ozone has been linked to asthma exacerbations and respiratory deaths. Elevated ozone levels have been found in rural areas of Wyoming, partially attributed to natural gas drilling in these locations. (Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, 2010). In an air sampling study from 2005 to 2007 conducted in Colorado, researchers found that air benzene concentrations approached or exceeded health-based standards at sites associated with oil or gas drilling (Garfield County PHD, 2007). Benzene exposure during pregnancy has been associated with neural tube defects (Lupo PJ, et al), decreased birth parameters (Slama R, et al., 2009), and childhood leukaemia (Whitworth KW, et al., 2008).

Noise Pollution

Noise pollution from the drilling process and resulting truck traffic has not been optimally evaluated, but since drilling sites have been located in close proximity to housing in many locations, noise from these industrial sources might impact sleep, and that has been associated with negative effects on learning and other aspects of daily living (Stansfeld SA, et al., 2003, WHO 2011).

Special Susceptibility of Children

Children are more vulnerable to environmental hazards. They eat, drink, and breathe more than adults on a pound for pound basis. Research has also shown that children are not able to metabolize some toxicants as well as adults due to immature detoxification processes. Moreover, the foetus and young child are in a critical period of development when toxic exposures can have profound negative effects.¹⁰

C) Thirdly, I am worried by the list, published by APPEA, of 50 compounds that are used during the fracking process, many of which are hazardous to health.^{11,12-19} These include the antifreeze agent, ethylene glycol, which is toxic in large amounts to the kidneys, nervous system, lungs, and heart.^{13,18} Before being banned in the fracking process by the NSW and Queensland governments, the BTEX chemicals (Benzene, Toluene, Ethyl benzene and Xylene) were volatile components of petroleum compounds.¹⁷ These volatile organic compounds (VOC) can still be released by the processes used in CSG mining: drilling, methane separation, and evaporation pond, compressor, and other equipment use, etc.^{18,19} BTEX chemicals are present naturally in hydrocarbon deposits and when released into the atmosphere from the process of CSG extraction, cause headaches, ataxia, and hepatic, and renal dysfunction.¹⁹ Benzene is a known carcinogen.^{13,19} Yet, APPEA unconvincingly and brazenly declares: "Some of the chemicals used in fracking may have some toxic characteristics...; however, when diluted such as in fracking gels, they present minimal to no human or ecological risks".¹²

The National Toxics Network has asked for a moratorium on drilling and the fracking process until the chemicals used in the process have been assessed for safety of residents above ground²⁰:

"Our investigation found that of 23 common fracking chemicals used in Australia, only 2 have ever been assessed by NICNAS, Australia's industrial chemicals regulator. The two that were assessed, have never been assessed for use as fracking chemicals," said lead author of the report, Dr Mariann Lloyd Smith.

"Constituents of fracking fluids are often considered 'trade secrets' and not revealed. Even regulators are left in the dark," she says. "Risk assessments for specific CSG projects in Queensland lacked basic information on the chemicals. The ones we were able to identify concerned us because of their significant potential to cause damage to the environment and human health. Some were linked with cancer and birth defects, while others damaged the hormone system of living things and affected aquatic species at very low levels."

"Fracking chemicals are complex mixtures of different chemicals which increases their risks. They are being used in very large volumes and unknown concentrations for purposes they were never intended for," Dr Lloyd-Smith says.

"Despite industry claims that fracking chemicals are 'only used in small quantities' and are all 'food grade chemicals used in household chemicals', NTN has discovered that hazardous chemicals such as ethylene glycol, formamide, naphthalene, ethoxylated nonylphenol and sodium persulfate are commonly used in fracking mixtures

"To give you an idea of the quantities involved, in one QLD proposed coal seam gas operation it was reported that 18,500kg of additives were to be used in each well during the fracturing process and that up to 40% (i.e. 7,500kg or 7.5 tonnes) of the fracking fluids would remain in the formations," Dr Lloyd-Smith says.

"That's a very large quantity of chemicals and they have to go somewhere. Whether they stay underground or they are brought back to the surface and placed in evaporation ponds,

there are significant risks of pollution to waterways, the atmosphere and surrounding communities,” she says.

“By allowing these chemicals to go unchecked, it effectively gives the CSG industry a green light to pollute. With such rapid expansion of the CSG industry expected, Governments must intervene to ensure the industry does not cause irreversible pollution” Dr Lloyd-Smith concluded.”²⁰

Dr. Marion Carey (public health physician, Senior Research Fellow at Monash University, and past Senior Medical Adviser in Environmental Health to the Chief Health Officer of Victoria) support this strong caution by the NTN in a peer-reviewed article: ‘There has been no comprehensive hazard assessment of the chemical mixtures used and their impacts on the environment or human health. Only two of the twenty-three most commonly used fracking chemicals have been assessed by the national regulator (NICNAS), and neither of these has been specifically assessed for use in fracking. A report on one of the two fracking chemicals that have been assessed for use in other situations the persulfate salts used in hair bleaching preparations - state they are “hazardous chemicals and ...harmful if swallowed, irritant to the skin and eyes and able to cause allergic responses”. The companies argue that only a very small percentage of fracking fluids consist of these chemicals, but because of the huge volumes of fluids used, cumulatively these chemicals may still constitute literally truckloads in volume. Additionally, some compounds such as benzene can present a risk to health even in minute quantities (as indicated by the Australian drinking water guidelines for benzene of 1ppb, the equivalent of a drop of water in a swimming pool).’¹⁸

Other objections to CSG by Dr. Carey are featured below¹⁸:

‘Chief amongst the potential threats to health is contamination of surface and ground waters, particularly drinking water sources. The chemical additives used in fracking, their degradation products, and compounds mobilised from sediments during the process can pose a risk to animal and human health by contaminating water used for drinking, washing, stock watering and food production. These can include toxic, allergenic, mutagenic and carcinogenic substances as well as methane. Waste water coming to the surface may contain volatile organic compounds, high concentrations of ions, heavy metals and radioactive substances.

The CSG industry uses enormous quantities of water, with predicted extractions of around 7,500 gigalitres from groundwater systems over the next 25 years. The National Water Commission is concerned that “CSG development represents a substantial risk to sustainable water management.”

However concerns about long-term effects of some chemicals used in or generated by CSG mining include hormonal system disruption, fertility and reproductive effects and development of cancer

The cumulative impacts of water and air pollution, degradation of agricultural land and loss of amenity and landscape, all have mental health consequences for communities living in a gas field. The CSG process can divide previously close-knit rural communities, and it seems

the traditional Australian “fair go” doesn’t apply. Farmers do not have the right to veto a CSG operation on their land which may have been nurtured by their family for generations. This can lead to anger, anxiety and powerlessness. Miners can legally force their way onto farmers’ land with a court order if they don’t comply. One CSG company recently served a court order on a blind Hunter Valley farmer who refused access because he was concerned about damage to his water supply, and needed to preserve the physical integrity of his land to be able to farm without normal vision”

The US EPA has begun a study to investigate the potential adverse impacts that hydraulic fracturing may have on water quality and public health. Our own governments’ reassurances appear less convincing once publicly available data start to emerge. The Queensland government reported that in only the first six months of 2011 there were forty-five CSG compliance related incidents, including twenty-three spills of CSG water during operations, four uncontrolled discharges of CSG water, three exceedances of discharge limits, three overflows of storage ponds, and other incidents relating to vegetation clearing and BTEX contamination.

Recently 10,000 litres of saline water leaked at the Narrabri CSG Project, now operated by Santos. The incident was not reported at the time despite an obligation to do so under the conditions of the petroleum exploration licence.

And yet people concerned about their water supplies and asking for testing of water before CSG operations begin may be forced to protest publicly and risk being arrested.

The NSW Ombudsman has raised serious issues about conflicts of interest in the assessment of CSG developments and under resourcing of compliance and enforcement activities. The same government department is responsible for both promoting investment in the CSG industry and regulating it. developments and under resourcing of compliance and enforcement activities. The same government department is responsible for both promoting investment in the CSG industry and regulating it.

A number of Australian health experts, including one of our Nobel Laureates, are sounding alarm bells. Some US public health experts say that claims of safety lack credibility in the face of a growing litany of accidents and contamination problems. They are advocating the need for the precautionary principle to be observed in the absence of health data. While the industry calls for definite proof of health effects, as with tobacco and asbestos, by the time evidence is iron-clad, damage may be well underway. We need to act to prevent serious impacts.

In the words of one analyst: “in the rush to supply CSG to China, Australia could forfeit its water security, and consequently its food security....It seems clear that every Australian has good reason to be concerned about whether Australian CSG mining will impair the Australian way of life.”¹⁸

D) Fourthly, I am alarmed about the impact CSG mining will have on our environment. NTN goes on to say:

'The real environmental and social costs of CSG extraction have not been thoroughly assessed. According to a recent Cornell University assessment, "Natural gas obtained by the controversial technique of hydraulic fracturing may contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions and so should not be considered as a cleaner alternative to coal or oil."

This US finding has direct relevance to the situation in Australia. The methods of extraction of unconventional gas both here and in the US are the same and both countries face the impacts of methane emissions, chemical contamination, water depletion and waste water management.

In neither country have the fracking chemicals been adequately assessed for their health and environmental effects and there is a growing concern that they may have significant negative impacts on the environment and surrounding communities. For instance, toxic spills can occur, and air, soil and water may also be polluted with fracking chemicals as a by-product of the CSG extraction process. Contamination of drinking and irrigation water and the destruction of productive farmland are also significant issues that concern the community.

Industry representatives claim that fracking chemicals are safe because they are similar to 'food additives' and are used in 'household products'. NTN believes these claims are misleading for several reasons. A number of the chemicals used in fracking fluids would never be permitted as food additives or household products due to their toxicity. As well, there has been no comprehensive hazard assessment of the chemical mixtures used in fracking fluids nor their impacts on the environment or human health.

A US analysis of chemicals used in fracking based on health data obtained from the MSDS as well as government toxicological reports, and the medical literature for the 362 chemicals with CAS numbers found:

- Over 78% of the chemicals are associated with skin, eye or sensory organ effects, respiratory effects and gastrointestinal or liver effects. The brain and nervous system can be harmed by 55% of the chemicals. Symptoms include burning eyes, rashes, coughs, sore throats, asthma-like effects, nausea, vomiting, headaches, dizziness, tremors, and convulsions.
- Between 22% and 47% of the chemicals were associated with possibly longer term health effects such as cancer, organ damage, and harm to the endocrine system.
- 210 chemicals (58%) are water-soluble while 131 chemicals (36%) are volatile; i.e., they can become airborne. Because they can be inhaled, swallowed, and also reach the skin, the potential for exposure to volatile chemicals is greater.
- Over 93% of the volatile chemicals can harm the eyes, skin, sensory organs, respiratory tract, gastrointestinal tract or liver, 86% can cause harm to the brain and nervous system, 72% can harm the cardiovascular system and blood, and 66% can harm the kidneys.¹⁸

E) Professor David Shearman, Emeritus Professor of Medicine at University of Adelaide, who does not work for, consult to, own shares in, or receive funding from any company or organisation that benefits from his work, has written extensively on the caution Australia should exercise with CSG²¹:

'Public health experience indicates that in a range of environmental contamination issues prevention is the mainstay to protection. Think of lead or asbestos for example; adequate assessment and regulation are key measures.

The debate has failed to focus on these important issues because industry has placed the onus of proof of contamination on exposed communities. It has refused on many occasions to disclose what chemicals are actually used in fracking, and has circulated information inaccurately suggesting the procedure uses only benign substances.

In Australia, baseline studies on aquifer water and air quality have not been done before CSG mining development. This is a failure of regulation in states.

Hydraulic fracturing (fracking) involves pumping a mixture of water, sand and chemicals deep underground to shatter rock strata and force coal seam gas to the surface. It is then refined into natural gas for fuel. The emerging problems of water contamination from fracking are being reported from many sources. They raise the entire question of government responsibilities to the community in the sphere of public health.²¹

'In Queensland, ground water and bores used for stock were contaminated recently with benzene and toluene near to the Cougar Energy project at Kingaroy. Queensland's Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) ordered Cougar to stop its underground coal gasification trial.

In Pavilion, Wyoming, 11 of 39 private water wells were found to be contaminated in regions where fracking was occurring. Some were contaminated with the solvent 2-butoxyethanol a chemical used in the process which can cause kidney disease and liver cancer. Traces of benzene, a carcinogen, were also found. Many medical symptoms reported in the community were compatible with exposure to these chemicals and are being investigated by the US Environmental Protection Agency. Problems have been reported in many other States in the USA and in August in New York State the Senate issued a moratorium on fracking until there is a comprehensive review of health and environmental concerns.

These adverse findings are at variance with the statements by industry that the process is safe and there are no cases of human health are being affected. Such statements often hide the fact that contamination and health have not been monitored.

The science and distribution of aquifers and other groundwater systems is rudimentary. Yet the coal seam gas sector and indeed the mining industry are currently exempt from the National Water Initiative which is responsible for water reform and water security. The water management rules which apply to every other industry, do not apply to the one sector that needs more regulation than any other. (There is potential for long term contamination and damage to aquifers)The National Water Initiative was signed in 2004, and although it was agreed that the mineral and petroleum sectors needed specific management arrangements there has been little progress to define these. Urgent reform needs to be instituted by the federal government which can accrue a body of expertise with recommendations that have to be followed by states. The prime consideration should be

human health and the sustainability of land, particularly prime farming areas, and water resources. The precautionary principle should be paramount when there is potential for long term contamination and damage to aquifers with impacts on human health.²²

F) As a fourth year medical student at the University of Western Sydney, and a community member of Campbelltown, it is in my interest to engage in preventive health measures for the betterment of a patient population that is serviced by Campbelltown and Camden Hospitals where I have had the good fortune of working with, and learning from the doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals for the last four years. Given the limited research around CSG and its current deleterious effects on residents' health, I find it offensive that AGL has come this far, and has been consistently fracking 85% of the wells in its Camden Gas Plant to begin with. The onus is on our government to show us the residents that CSG mining poses no danger; yet it has become our burden to prove to AGL otherwise. This is potentially a dire case of government being liable to private vested interests and not representing its people. The studies from Queensland and overseas prove that fracking may have far-reaching health consequences including potential contamination of our water with carcinogens used in the mining process; should CSG mining be approved, we face methane emissions in a time when this government is switching from emission-based fuel to renewable economies, waste water management dilemmas, and significant water depletion and contamination dangers.^{3,8,10,16,19,20-22}

Given the evidence, it seems cautionary to halt all plans for CSG mining indefinitely until further independent research is conducted. Yet, the one body that is now representing us, the NSW Dept of Planning, has its elected leader belittling scientists', doctors', and residents' views on television.²³ He does not live in Western Sydney. He does not have answers to why our rights to appeal have been taken away for us, and talks about a system that has been in place for thirty odd years, instead of trying to take ownership of a critical situation where our livelihoods, environments, and health are in danger.²⁴ There is no 'fairness and equity here' when the independent head of a government department laughs derisively at the evidence behind our opposition to CSG mining.^{23,24}

Furthermore, little attention has been paid to the community's land rights in AGL's proposal. Industrialisation of heritage land that is zoned for Environmental Protection is a disgrace. This land belongs the traditional custodians of country, the Tharawal people, and is also home to religious communities and rural farmers. Denigrating its value with CSG is an ethical, moral, and economic tragedy.

G) In my final objection to this proposed expansion of AGL's, I question the political motivation behind the recent and sudden move by NSW Department of Planning that enables the transfer of AGL's amended application to the State Significant Development legislation.²⁵ This is a cynical calculation that reduces the public's appeal rights to the truly independent Land and Environment Commission over any decision from the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC). Expert members of the PAC who are currently reviewing this submission have been appointed by the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure. The Honourable Minister, however, has made clear on television that he believes the residents of Macarthur have little to fear from AGL's expansion, making fun of our objections, and portraying himself distastefully with a masterful combination of arrogance and ignorance,

only achievable in politics.²³ Thus, when it is clear that the Minister of Planning seems to believe this proposal is so benign it can be simplified to a laugh, I fail to see how the move that delivers the Ministerial-appointed PAC complete control over the proposal, can be cited by the same Department as increasing public scrutiny.^{23,25}

I agree to have this submission available for the public to read.

██████████ ██████████

██████████ ██████████ ██████████ Woodbine from 2009 February -2012 November

References (links only)

- 1.<http://www.naturalgaseurope.com/category/technology/hydraulic-fracturing-technology>
- 2.<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/>
- 3.[http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Prod/parlment/committee.nsf/0/95194e90512bd4c4ca25794c00189110/\\$FILE/Submission%200648.pdf](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Prod/parlment/committee.nsf/0/95194e90512bd4c4ca25794c00189110/$FILE/Submission%200648.pdf)
- 4.<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/quebec-gas-in-peril-as-pq-signals-ban/article4557380/>
- 5.<http://www.ogfj.com/articles/2012/09/quebec-natural-resources-minister-wants-complete-ban-on-hydraulic-fracturing.html>
- 6.<http://frackingandhealth.ca/new-brunswick-college-of-family-physicians-calls-for-moratorium-hydraulic-fracturing/>
- 7.<http://dea.org.au/news/article/media-release-dea-ntn-15-11-2012-coal-seam-gas-pollution>
- 8.http://www.scu.edu.au/news/media.php?item_id=6041&action=show_item&type=M
- 9.<http://www.appea.com.au/images/stories/media/121114%20appea%20response%20to%20sthn%20cross%20university%20funding%20submission.pdf>
- 10.http://aoec.org/pehsu/documents/hydraulic_fracturing_and_children_2011_health_prof.pdf
- 11.http://www.appea.com.au/images/stories/Policy_CSG/fracking%20chems%20list%20jan%202012.pdf
12. <http://www.appea.com.au>
- 13.<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts3.pdf>
14. Ethylene glycol <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts96.pdg>

- 15.http://www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/CAR/PEC/PEC18/PEC_18_Full_Report_PDF.pdf
- 16.<http://democrats.energycommerce.house.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Hydraulic%20Fracturing%20Report%204.18.11.pdf>
- 17.http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/400728/Minister-Hartcher-med-rel-end-of-moratorium.pdf
- 18.http://dea.org.au/images/general/viewpoint_issue_8_CSG.pdf
- 19.<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1817691/>
- 20.<http://www.ntn.org.au/wp/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/NTN-CSG-Report-Sep-2011.pdf>
- 21.<http://theconversation.edu.au/dealing-with-the-health-risks-of-unconventional-gas-10987>
- 22.http://dea.org.au/news/article/fracking_for_coal_gas_is_a_health_hazard
- 23.<http://au.news.yahoo.com/video/national/watch/e0ab6114-52da-3de7-89a9-336fb9bc18bf/protests-against-sydney-csg-plans/>
- 24.<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-11-23/nsw-planning-minister-defends-development/4389906>
25. http://scenic hills.org.au/doc/Department_media_release_-_2012_-_Camden_Gas_Project_Stage_3_Pt3A_to_SSD_and_PAC_review_2910.pdf

To the NSW Department of Planning

**Re: Opposition to Northern Expansion of Camden Gas Project
Project No 09_0048**

We are writing as medical students from the University of Western Sydney, Campbelltown campus who are against the proposal Application Number 09_0048. In light of the proposal's intention to drill sixty six coal seam gas wells in residential areas initially, and the large population of South Western Sydney which will be affected by the subsurface project area, we are concerned about the multiple risks to public health from Coal Seam Gas mining in residential areas.¹

In October 2012, Earthworks' Oil & Gas Accountability Project made a strong statement after conducting community-based research: "To protect the public health, our primary recommendation is: Pennsylvania (and other states) should put public health first and refuse to permit new gas development until they can assure affected communities that they (a) fully understand the associated public health risks and (b) have taken all necessary steps to prevent those health risks."²

The following salient findings backed their recommendation. Symptoms reported by residents increased as their proximity to gas facilities increased.² Symptoms ranged from throat irritation and severe headaches to joint pains, forgetfulness, nosebleeds, sinus irritation, eye burning, and skin rashes in young children.² The results suggest an association between ill health and proximity to gas field. Non-smokers reported symptoms that are commonly thought to be the lot of smokers.² Odours were experienced by 81%, and for 18% on a daily basis, and water well samples that were tested had elevated methane in more than half, as well as levels of iron, manganese, arsenic, and lead that were higher than the Maximum Contaminant Level.² Elevated levels of these, as well as barium, bromide, calcium, chloride, magnesium, potassium, sodium, sulphate, and strontium were consistently pointing to contamination of drinking water by gas activities.² Furthermore, air in both rural and residential areas were contaminated with Volatile Organic Compounds including known carcinogens, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene.² These levels were higher in some samples than those detected near oil refineries, as well as the national mean for urban areas.² American state and federal agencies have already drawn known associations between the contaminants of water and air by gas activities and the health symptoms reported in the study.² Sixty eight percent of residents had reported symptoms which were *known* to be associated with these contaminants from the gas industry.²

Osborn et al analysed groundwater from 68 water wells in Pennsylvania and New York: they found systematic evidence for methane contamination of drinking water associated with the extraction of shale gas, as well as higher chain hydrocarbons such as ethane, propane, and butane.³ However, there have been no studies done on the long term health impacts of such a finding.³ With regards to air quality, an assessment of human health risks from air emissions due to unconventional gas extraction (directional drilling, hydraulic fracturing) brought to light further health risks.⁴ Results demonstrated that residents living less than 0.5 miles from wells were at greater risk for health effects than those living more than 0.5 miles from wells.⁴ The sub-chronic non-cancer hazard index (HI) of 5 for the former group was primarily driven by exposure to trimethylbenenes, xylenes, and aliphatic hydrocarbons.⁴

Exposure to harmful air pollution was greatest during well completion (fracking and flowback).⁴ Cumulative risk for developing cancer was increased for residents living near wells due to the increased exposure, for the most part, from benzene.⁴ The known health effects from hydrocarbon exposure (headaches, throat and eye irritation) were commonly reported by residents.⁴

Recent studies by Colborn et al have had comparable findings for the health impacts from exposure to non-methane hydrocarbons, whose concentration in the air of residences where gas well co-existed, were highest during the initial drilling phase.⁵ Methylene chloride, a toxic solvent, was present 73% of the time when air quality over the year was monitored.⁵ It was present in extremely high concentrations (one reading of 1730 ppbv, and three others more than 563 ppbv) when the well was being developed but decline after the well began producing (highest level at 10.66 ppb).⁵ Since methylene chloride does not occur naturally in raw gas and is not a component of drilling or fracturing fluids (as far as the authors know), the source and exposure routes need to be better outlined; there are reports by residents and workers of the gas field that methylene chloride was stored on well pads for cleaning.⁵ This study highlights the unknown terrain that is residential natural gas extraction, and the known implications to people's health from exposure to hazardous substances associated with such untested industrial processes.⁵

Literature reviews also revealed that non-methane hydrocarbons are linked to disruption of the endocrine system, even at low levels of exposure.^{5,6} Furthermore, some polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), like naphthalene, were detected at greater concentrations than in past studies.⁵ The impact of PAHs is clinically significant, even at low concentrations.^{5,6} For instance, in 2006, Perera et al showed that children in New York City who received greater prenatal exposure to eight PAHs (summed concentration $>4.16 \text{ ng/m}^3$, measured by the Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health where pregnant women in urban areas wore personal air monitors) had lower intellectual developmental scores than others.⁷ Follow-up in 2009 demonstrated lower IQ scores amongst five year-olds with prenatal exposures $> 2.26 \text{ ng/m}^3$.⁸

Likewise, a 2010 study in Krakow, Poland reported the same detriment to children's cognitive development.⁹ The acute exposure of relatively high concentrations of chemicals differs from the chronic, intermittent, low-level exposures that occur to residents near gas wells.⁹ The health impact also varies depending on the individuals affected: pregnant women, developing embryos, children, and the elderly.⁹ Chemicals that disrupt the endocrine system are especially harmful when low-level exposure occurs in embryological development and childhood.⁵⁻⁹

Finally, a study of toxicology on 'Environmental pathways of potential impacts to human health from oil and gas development in northeast British Columbia, Canada' drew the following conclusions.¹⁰

"In order for the health impacts of oil and gas to be understood, cause and effect relationships need to be drawn. Confounding variables and a lack of data are some of the obstacles to this endeavour. However, we know that northeast British Columbia (NEBC) experiences some health problems at a higher frequency than the rest of the province. We know that contaminants and other upstream oil and gas (UOG) related stressors can cause those health problems. We know that NEBC is

the only part of the province with such UOG activity. We also know from previous model predictions and field observations that some contaminants can reach levels high enough to have health consequences. Accordingly, there seems to be a correlation in British Columbia between UOG activity and increased rates of lung cancer, morbidity, and respiratory diseases.

Monitoring should be statistically rigorous and spatially representative accounting for topography, pollutant chemistry, meteorology, source density or distance, and the precision required to determine human health response. Considering the potentially high level of toxicity and carcinogenicity of some toxic substances (e.g., BTEX), it is recommended that even small releases be highly regulated, reported, and avoided. Background and environmental levels of these compounds may be increasing. For some less volatile compounds, measurements in water and soil may be an appropriate metric of total cumulative load/exposure. Widespread air monitoring of H₂S is desirable to protect human health, and due to the different toxicological limits of H₂S and various mercaptans, speciation of TRS is required. Similarly, due to varying toxicities of VOC, their grouping is considered arbitrary from a human health perspective and the measurement or reporting of these compounds should be speciated whenever possible.

Due to the commonality of radiation sources associated with UOG in NEBC, isotopes of uranium, radon, radium, and lead need to be measured along statistically defined transects to determine whether radiation may cause a human health risk based on usual outdoor habits and traditions. If measured levels warrant concern, ingestion and inhalation exposure pathways deserve immediate attention.

There are a myriad of potential health impacts from UOG development in NEBC. Contaminants from UOG activity can reach human receptors through the air, water, soil, and food pathways. Some contaminants such as PAH or radioactivity may be inhaled, absorbed, and ingested reaching people through all pathways. Many of these contaminants including air pollutants, radiation (such as radon), and volatile hydrocarbons in air or soil, are associated with lung cancer, respiratory ailments, and related mortalities — health indicators for which NEBC shows disparity. Modelling results and observations to date have found that levels of some contaminants are high enough to cause negative human health impacts; however, to determine whether or not UOG related contaminants are the cause of health disparities requires further research. That research must include long-term spatially representative monitoring of contaminants in the environment as well as spatial epidemiological analyses of potentially related health symptoms and any confounding lifestyle factors.

We also know little about the combined impacts of multiple stressors and contaminants on human health. Most upstream oil and gas activities are associated with multiple stressors. For instance, a new well being drilled will emit noise, vent pollutants and dispose of waste to the surface. Essentially anyone or anything within the range of influence of this new well will experience some sort of impact. That impact will be cumulative and may be equal to or greater than the sum of all individual impacts (e.g., Mauderly and Samet 2009). Human health is considered one of many potential indicators of cumulative impacts from UOG. Therefore, by protecting human health, environmental health may also be preserved (or vice

versa). The combined risk or cumulative impact of UOG on human health, must to be determined in order for appropriate management and policy decisions to be made."¹⁰

Given the above research, we call for a moratorium on Coal Seam Gas mining in residential areas, and specifically in South West Sydney, where many of us live, study, and work. We also ask that the Department of Planning consider the health effects of unconventional gas mining and make recommendations to explore causal relationships further. We recommend the Widespread Consensus Statement on the Precautionary Principle with regards to consideration of this proposal:

"While we realize that human activities may involve hazards, people must proceed more carefully than has been the case in recent history. Corporations, government entities, organizations, communities, scientists and other individuals must adopt a precautionary approach to all human endeavors...When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically."¹¹

We acknowledge that this submission along with our names and residences will be reviewed by the Department of Planning but we wish to withhold them from public exhibit for privacy reasons.

Best Wishes,

Medical Students at the University of Western Sydney:

Names:

Places of residence:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Bibliography:

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(Name withheld), of Eschol Park NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

There has not been sufficient independent studies to prove that there will be no risk to the health of myself or my husband, we are both in our 70's and so more sensitive to pollutants in the air. Also I am concerned for the long term health of my Grand Children who live in the area.

I am concerned that this is being pushed through in the South Western Suburbs where there is so much growth and so many young families.

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(Name withheld), of Eagle Vale NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

I strongly object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas (CSG) in Campbelltown and Camden. The key reasons for my objection are:

- 1) CSG mining is a technologically-evolving industry whose impacts have not been independently and scientifically fully researched and remain largely unknown. Existing gas operations in the area have NOT been monitored and evaluated by INDEPENDENT authorities- all 'monitoring' has been by the organisation itself which is not good enough when there are so many potential risky long-term impacts.
- 2) Research in other areas where CSG mining has occurred (eg Southern Cross University research in Tara) is very concerning with regards to health impacts on the population. MORE research needs to be done BEFORE other urban areas are subjected to this type of mining.
- 3) There are risks from CSG to south west Sydney's water supply, and to Sydney water in general, and potentially even through to Sydney Harbour.
- 4) AGL cannot be trusted to fully comply with environmental and safety conditions - as evidenced by on-going breaches by AGL of its licence conditions, and the discovery of incidents that might not have been reported were it not for community vigilance, such as the Sugarloaf well incident in May 2011 in Menangle that allowed well contents to drift over Sydney's water channel and to nearby Glen Alpine houses.
- 5) There are significant risks to property values in the area. As a hard-working citizen, who has struggled for many years to be able to finally purchase a property in the area recently, this is of great concern. This property is my security for my old age. I cannot afford to lose any value because of even the POTENTIAL impacts of CSG.

According to its own evidence provided to a NSW Upper House Inquiry, AGL will only ever produce about 5% of NSW's gas from the Camden Gas Project. This DOES NOT justify the risks and potential costs to the 150,000+ people who live and work in this area. . It is socially, environmentally and economically unjustified, and has NO SOCIAL LICENCE to operate here.

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(Name withheld), of Camden NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

Future coal-seam gas projects in built-up areas like Spring Farm and Gregory Hills should NOT be allowed under any circumstances. There is simply NO need for such a high level of coal seam mining in this area.

The energy minister Chris Hartcher says that projects such as this are necessary to avoid gas price rises. This is a cop out for the millions of dollars the government and AGL is set to make from royalties as a result of this mining. Why doesn't the energy minister take his coal seam gas mining to Erina or Bondi and explain to his voters that this is all well and good for the central coast or eastern suburbs population. These areas are about to experience a population explosion and there is no need for these areas to be the test subjects for a harmful process of which there are UNKNOWN long-term environmental and health impacts.

I find it highly ironic that a link on this webpage to a so-called 'environmental assessment' sends viewers to a ridiculous publicity plug by AGL denying any environmental harm and NOT an objective assessment by an INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATOR.

There has been no consideration whatsoever for the potential impacts to water tables, issues of salinity, and the impacts on organisms which inhabit groundwater ecosystems. This will absolutely have some form of environmental impact as discussed by independent scientists in Queensland, whose claims to environmental harm were merely dismissed as 'climate change like' skepticism from pro-mining royalty. The spin continues to be spoon-fed to society, with companies like AGL using the red herring cop-outs such as increased job opportunities and 'community opportunities' that will apparently be fostered by the DESTRUCTION of our water tables.

I also find it highly ironic that the gutless Premier who (not only spruiks himself as the 'Member for Western Sydney') but promised the people of Western Sydney that under NO CIRCUMSTANCES would mining take place in the South-West has back-flipped all for a lure of a dollar.

If the NSW Government had any sense it would ban the practice of 'fracking' just like the Victorian State Government did, who obviously saw past all the crap that companies like AGL continues to pump out to the public. This is absolutely disgraceful and there is no concern being shown for the environment or for the citizens of this area.

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(Name withheld), of campbelltown NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

My name is [REDACTED], I dont have internet so im using my brother in laws email to make my submission. Please call me on [REDACTED] if you need to verify this.

My submission:

The Sydney water supply and catchment is protected to the point that there are very heavy fines & jail terms for anyone court tampering with our water supply, yet you will allow CSG to do it without any risk of fines or jail. Its like closing the gate after the horse has bolted, it will be too late once the damage is done. Dont contaminate or polute campbelltown, you wouldnt do it to your own home so why do it to ours.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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(Name withheld), of Ormiston QLD, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

The Carmelite Friars' Retreat Centre will be directly affected by this proposed project. This centre provides a space of rural peace and reflection for people from all over Australia to spend time in quiet and prayer. For over 15 years contemplative Carmelite nuns from our Association in various parts of Australia, PNG and New Zealand have gathered for meetings and seminars with our friars and the community of our sisters whose property adjoins the centre. We treasure the peace, tranquility and solitude of this area and vigorously oppose the intrusion of coal seam gas mining.

To:
Mining and Industry Projects
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

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

I object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas (CSG) in Campbelltown and Camden. The key reasons for my objection are stated below.

I am concerned that CSG mining is a technologically-evolving industry whose impacts have not been independently and scientifically fully researched and remain largely unknown. This view is supported by professional organisations and academics in evidence to the NSW Upper House and Senate Inquiries into Coal Seam Gas Mining in 2011 and by subsequent research here and overseas. We have had to rely on the industry for much of our information when the industry has a vested interest in the outcome. AGL is no different. It claims that the Camden Gas Project has been safely operating for 10 years. Yet we understand that impacts on groundwater and air quality have not been adequately monitored, and while AGL has been operating under an Environmental Protection Licence (EPL No. 12003), it has been allowed to self-monitor its compliance, self-investigate incidents and self-report such that we do not know what true impacts it may have had. Third party consultants and external laboratories that are engaged and paid for by the industry are not *independent*. Nor is any funded or co-funded research by the CSG mining industry. These lessons should have been learnt with asbestos in Australia and with 'Big Tobacco' in the USA. The National Water Commission in its Position Statement (3rd December 2010) said that impacts may emerge over a long time period. I am deeply concerned that the costs of unforeseen problems will be borne by the community and taxpayers after AGL is long gone from the area. This is grossly irresponsible.

Doctors for the Environment Australia claims that health impacts from CSG mining have not been assessed. Preliminary research from Queensland (e.g. by Southern Cross University in Tara) and overseas is deeply concerning, especially where fracking has been used. As at December 2011, 85% of the production wells in the Camden Gas Project had been fracked (evidence from the NSW Upper House Inquiry) with inadequate monitoring of its impacts on water in particular. AGL claims that the use of horizontal wells in the proposed Stage 3 will reduce the need for fracking, but it seems that this is not entirely true since it has reserved the right to frack these wells in the future if/when the technology becomes available. The size of the proposed well clusters and any fracking of horizontal wells are both new and untested here. It will therefore be entirely experimental with unknown outcomes on health and property including the possibility of subsidence under so many urban properties.

I am also concerned about evidence from Queensland and overseas on air quality and the cumulative impact of AGL's expansion into an area that already experiences incidents of unacceptable levels of air pollution (ozone and fine particles) associated with respiratory problems (NSW Environmental Protection Authority). AGL's past performance gives no confidence that it has not already contributed to this or that it can be managed in the future,

having admitted in August this year that it had not conducted continuous air monitoring at its Rosalind Park Gas Treatment Plant for three years in breach of its EPL No.12003.

Allowing CSG mining in areas that are not zoned for heavy industry undermines zoning controls and confidence in the planning process, and creates severe land use conflicts, economic instability and inequity. It will disrupt religious communities whose vocations have so far been protected by the Scenic Hills zoning; it will place undue burden on small rural allotments whose capacity to cope is severely reduced by size (thereby threatening the survival of the entire historic Scenic Hills), and it is unsightly and unsafe in urban areas with a potential escalation in CSG mining incidents and accidents associated with the more intense urban activity (traffic, people etc.), the presence of children, and potential for vandalism. The consequent impact on land and house values for existing land and home owners may be devastating. For many people the home is their largest asset and is often leveraged to support small business. Any devaluation by bank assessors may destroy livelihoods and life savings.

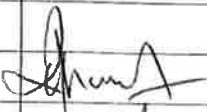
I do not believe that the NSW Government's new regulations for CSG mining will ensure its safe operation here. As the only commercially producing CSG field in NSW, the Camden Gas Project has already been operating under consent conditions. Yet the NSW Government has not been able to ensure compliance, as evidenced by on-going breaches by AGL of its licence conditions, and the discovery of incidents that might not have been reported were it not for community vigilance, such as the Sugarloaf well incident in May 2011 in Menangle that allowed well contents to drift over Sydney's water channel and to nearby Glen Alpine houses.

The proposal poses risks to Sydney's water in general and to the South West in particular that have not been adequately assessed. While AGL claims that the *geology of the Sydney Basin is well known*, AGL's rationale for the constant modification of prior stages of the Camden Gas Project seems to contradict this, as does its admission to the Scenic Hills Association that it does not know where the aquifers here run to but *probably Sydney Harbour*. Potential impacts on Sydney Harbour, on the nearby Sydney Water Catchment, and AGL's proposal to run its gas gathering pipeline along Sydney's Upper Canal on public land are unacceptable risks to Sydney's water, and are an abuse of public property for the benefit of private investors.

AGL will only ever produce about 5% of NSW's gas from the Camden Gas Project according to evidence it gave under oath at the NSW Upper House Inquiry. This does not justify the risks and potential costs to the community, particularly since 150,000+ people already live and work in the immediate affected area, and this is in Sydney's south west growth corridor. It is socially, environmentally and economically unjustified, and has no social licence to operate here.

I acknowledge that my name will appear on my submission when publicly exhibited.

Yours sincerely

Name	
Address	
Signature	
Date	17/12/12

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(Name withheld), of Narellan NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

I have only recently found out that this gas well project was of this scale, and is to encompass what looks like the whole of the Macarthur area. I have begun to read through hundreds of documents, environmental statements, responses to submissions etc related to this project and am just aghast at how it will adversely affect the rural nature of our local area.

I object fiercely to this project being undertaken so closely to residential areas with air quality being a major issue to our health. I'm worried particularly about health issues such as burning eyes, skin conditions and breathing complaints that I've read about from others who live near gas wells.

I object to this project also on its adverse effects on the rural landscape, particularly to the many threatened species of flora and fauna in the local area, as well as the issue of contaminants in run-off surface water polluting local waterways, farmland and catchment area.

I'm surprised that I haven't heard much about this project until now. Why is that? I go to the Camden Show each year, I read local and Sydney newspapers often, I listen to the radio on a daily basis and I'm involved in a number of community groups, so I thought I was fairly informed, but obviously that is not the case.

I do not want gas wells drilled in my local area. I love the rural and heritage area of Macarthur, and want it to stay that way. Surely gas wells can be drilled further away from the Sydney area, somewhere where no-one lives?

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(Name withheld), of annangrove NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

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.

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(Name withheld), of eschol park NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

I strongly object to the application for gas mining in my suburb, this needs to be done in un populated areas as there is a substantial risk to our way of life.

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(Name withheld), of eschol park NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

i feel this is totally un exceptable in such a built up area, after some testing was done previously we lost a whole fish pond full of valuable carp when the pond water turned to acid almost over night. The rain water we collected was also very acid. Enough is enough take the exploration to un inhabited areas.

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(Name withheld), of eschol park NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

My husband and myself strongly object to any gas mining in our area.

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(Name withheld), of Mount Annan NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

CSG mining has a range of documented environmental and health issues. These environmental and health issues are not just concerns, but actual threats to the health and safety of not only our local community but the Australian peoples. Environmentally, the CSG industry is far more destructive and potentially destructive than coal mining, but unlike coal mining, there are no easy rehabilitation measures. Mining under residential housing is wrong and should not be allowed until the environmental and health issues can be thoroughly investigated.

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(Name withheld), of Leumeah NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

I really don't believe this is happening. I understand there is no proof to it doing any harm to people, but why would you even take the risk. I have lived in Campbelltown for nearly 40 years and was considering a move near Camden..this has now been put on hold until this matter has been dealt with. You will drive everyone out of such a beautiful place. DON'T SPOIL IT.

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(Name withheld), of Harrington Park NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

To all parties involved,

I would like to raise an objection to the planned expansion of Coal Seam Gas (CSG) mining for the Camden area. I am a new resident in Harrington Park, having moved into the area in August of 2011 from Leumeah in Campbelltown. When we bought our land we were never notified of the possibility of CSG mining in our area. As a family we have made a very large investment by building in this area and I now hold concerns for the future value of my investment, should the expansion be approved. Part of the reason for building in this area was for the proposed environmental developments & plantings planned in partnership. CSG was never a part of this and these environmental buffer zones are now under threat.

I am also very concerned about the serious gaps in knowledge of the true short, medium and long term effects of CSG. There is currently a lack of thorough "independent" reviews of the existing science from Australia and overseas of the true & accurate impacts of CSG. South East Queensland is a classic example of this where there are many emerging health & environmental side effects linked to CSG.

Please don't use my young children's health & my local environment as guinea pigs for the sake of a quick dollar.

AGL has previously shown a lack of attention to the local communities' safety, having previously been issued with an official warning for breaching their licence conditions. This is not the style of company or style of industry that needs to be around young residential areas. There are plenty of alternatives around in remote areas, which can be utilised instead of gambling on the health & safety of local communities.

CSG may well be the tobacco or asbestos of the future. Let's not take that chance.

Any minister or public official who votes for or approves this kind of activity will certainly lose my vote in the next round of federal, state or local elections. Current Governments have received majorities on the promise that they will listen to the people. Now is your chance to do this.

Please consider my objection when assessing this application.

Very concerned local Harrington Park Resident.

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(Name withheld), of Currans Hill NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

I have been a resident of Currans Hill for the past 12 years and I strongly object to this development being placed so close to the residential areas. The surrounding areas still have allot of land that is not occupied by residential housing so I believe that this development should be moved to an area that is less populated. I also have alot of wildlife that I have seen and photographed on my property and around the area which include frogs, lizards, snakes and birds and I believe that the gasses and polution that may result from this development will be extremly harmful to this wildlife. I have included some photos that I have personaly taken in the past few months of some dawaf green frogs that are living in my own backyard to show just some of the delicate wildlife that is currently living in this area and will be very close to the gas wells. These frogs are very delicate and the smallest amount of polution in the atmosphere will destroy them and other wildlife in the area. I also have children and dont wish for them to be exposed to unknown gasses that could have toxic components to them. I do hope that the people and wildlife that live in this area can be put first and not the company that makes huge profits.

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(Name withheld), of Currans Hill NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

I have lived in the suburb of Currans Hill for over 12 years now and believe that this development should not be so close to this residential area. I currently have seen and photographed a number of frogs, lizards, snakes and birds in my own property and in the surrounding area and believe that the gasses that may be produced by this development will be very harmful to this delicate wildlife, not to mention myself or my children being affected by this. Being an area with alot of farming and vacant land I dont see any reason that the gas wells and pipe lines cant be placed further from the main housing and residential areas where they will have far less impact. I have added some pictures that I have taken of some dawaf green frogs that I have taken between october to december to show some of the very delicate wildlife that is currently living in this area, these and all other wildlife are extremly vulnerable to any polution or toxins in the enviroment. I do hope that this project is not going to be approved and that the people and wildlife that are going to be affected are put first and not the company that stands to make huge profits while charging us rediculas rates on our bills.

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(Name withheld), of camden NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

I d not support this application

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(Name withheld), of Austral NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

We dont want or need this near brand new housing estates.....even more so when it wasnt disclosed to ppl before they brought the land

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(Name withheld), of Raby NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

I object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas (CSG) in Campbelltown and Camden. The key reasons for my objection are stated below. I am concerned that CSG mining is a technologically-evolving industry whose impacts have not been independently and scientifically fully researched and remain largely unknown. This view is supported by professional organisations and academics in evidence to the NSW Upper House and Senate Inquiries into Coal Seam Gas Mining in 2011 and by subsequent research here and overseas. We have had to rely on the industry for much of our information when the industry has a vested interest in the outcome. AGL is no different. It claims that the Camden Gas Project has been safely operating for 10 years. Yet we understand that impacts on groundwater and air quality have not been adequately monitored, and while AGL has been operating under an Environmental Protection Licence (EPL No. 12003), it has been allowed to self-monitor its compliance, self-investigate incidents and self-report such that we do not know what true impacts it may have had. Third party consultants and external laboratories that are engaged and paid for by the industry are not independent. Nor is any funded or co-funded research by the CSG mining industry. These lessons should have been learnt with asbestos in Australia and with 'Big Tobacco' in the USA. The National Water Commission in its Position Statement (3rd December 2010) said that impacts may emerge over a long time period. I am deeply concerned that the costs of unforeseen problems will be borne by the community and taxpayers after AGL is long gone from the area. This is grossly irresponsible.

Doctors for the Environment Australia claims that health impacts from CSG mining have not been assessed. Preliminary research from Queensland (e.g. by Southern Cross University in Tara) and overseas is deeply concerning, especially where fracking has been used. As at December 2011, 85% of the production wells in the Camden Gas Project had been fracked (evidence from the NSW Upper House Inquiry) with inadequate monitoring of its impacts on water in particular. AGL claims that the use of horizontal wells in the proposed Stage 3 will reduce the need for fracking, but it seems that this is not entirely true since it has reserved the right to frack these wells in the future if/when the technology becomes available. The size of the proposed well clusters and any fracking of horizontal wells are both new and untested here. It will therefore be entirely experimental with unknown outcomes on health and property including the possibility of subsidence under so many urban properties.

I am also concerned about evidence from Queensland and overseas on air quality and the cumulative impact of AGL's expansion into an area that already experiences incidents of unacceptable levels of air pollution (ozone and fine particles) associated with respiratory problems (NSW Environmental Protection Authority). AGL's past performance gives no confidence that it has not already contributed to this or that it can be managed in the future, having admitted in August this year that it had not conducted continuous air monitoring at its Rosalind Park Gas Treatment Plant for

three years in breach of its EPL No.12003.

Allowing CSG mining in areas that are not zoned for heavy industry undermines zoning controls and confidence in the planning process, and creates severe land use conflicts, economic instability and inequity. It will disrupt religious communities whose vocations have so far been protected by the Scenic Hills zoning; it will place undue burden on small rural allotments whose capacity to cope is severely reduced by size (thereby threatening the survival of the entire historic Scenic Hills), and it is unsightly and unsafe in urban areas with a potential escalation in CSG mining incidents and accidents associated with the more intense urban activity (traffic, people etc.), the presence of children, and potential for vandalism. The consequent impact on land and house values for existing land and home owners may be devastating. For many people the home is their largest asset and is often leveraged to support small business. Any devaluation by bank assessors may destroy livelihoods and life savings.

I do not believe that the NSW Government's new regulations for CSG mining will ensure its safe operation here. As the only commercially producing CSG field in NSW, the Camden Gas Project has already been operating under consent conditions. Yet the NSW Government has not been able to ensure compliance, as evidenced by on-going breaches by AGL of its licence conditions, and the discovery of incidents that might not have been reported were it not for community vigilance, such as the Sugarloaf well incident in May 2011 in Menangle that allowed well contents to drift over Sydney's water channel and to nearby Glen Alpine houses.

The proposal poses risks to Sydney's water in general and to the South West in particular that have not been adequately assessed. While AGL claims that the geology of the Sydney Basin is well known, AGL's rationale for the constant modification of prior stages of the Camden Gas Project seems to contradict this, as does its admission to the Scenic Hills Association that it does not know where the aquifers here run to but probably Sydney Harbour. Potential impacts on Sydney Harbour, on the nearby Sydney Water Catchment, and AGL's proposal to run its gas gathering pipeline along Sydney's Upper Canal on public land are unacceptable risks to Sydney's water, and are an abuse of public property for the benefit of private investors.

AGL will only ever produce about 5% of NSW's gas from the Camden Gas Project according to evidence it gave under oath at the NSW Upper House Inquiry. This does not justify the risks and potential costs to the community, particularly since 150,000+ people already live and work in the immediate affected area, and this is in Sydney's south west growth corridor. It is socially, environmentally and economically unjustified, and has no social licence to operate here.

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(Name withheld), of Schofields NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

I cannot believe that despite all the evidence that this practice is a filthy, health threatening process AND that by far the majority of people DO NOT WANT IT, AGL still plans to go ahead. It is disgusting that short term monetary gain is put in front of safety and the future of the environment. Yep, it's disgusting.

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(Name withheld), of Raby NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

I object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas (CSG) in Campbelltown and Camden. The key reasons for my objection are stated below. I am concerned that CSG mining is a technologically-evolving industry whose impacts have not been independently and scientifically fully researched and remain largely unknown. This view is supported by professional organisations and academics in evidence to the NSW Upper House and Senate Inquiries into Coal Seam Gas Mining in 2011 and by subsequent research here and overseas. We have had to rely on the industry for much of our information when the industry has a vested interest in the outcome. AGL is no different. It claims that the Camden Gas Project has been safely operating for 10 years. Yet we understand that impacts on groundwater and air quality have not been adequately monitored, and while AGL has been operating under an Environmental Protection Licence (EPL No. 12003), it has been allowed to self-monitor its compliance, self-investigate incidents and self-report such that we do not know what true impacts it may have had. Third party consultants and external laboratories that are engaged and paid for by the industry are not independent. Nor is any funded or co-funded research by the CSG mining industry. These lessons should have been learnt with asbestos in Australia and with 'Big Tobacco' in the USA. The National Water Commission in its Position Statement (3rd December 2010) said that impacts may emerge over a long time period. I am deeply concerned that the costs of unforeseen problems will be borne by the community and taxpayers after AGL is long gone from the area. This is grossly irresponsible.

Doctors for the Environment Australia claims that health impacts from CSG mining have not been assessed. Preliminary research from Queensland (e.g. by Southern Cross University in Tara) and overseas is deeply concerning, especially where fracking has been used. As at December 2011, 85% of the production wells in the Camden Gas Project had been fracked (evidence from the NSW Upper House Inquiry) with inadequate monitoring of its impacts on water in particular. AGL claims that the use of horizontal wells in the proposed Stage 3 will reduce the need for fracking, but it seems that this is not entirely true since it has reserved the right to frack these wells in the future if/when the technology becomes available. The size of the proposed well clusters and any fracking of horizontal wells are both new and untested here. It will therefore be entirely experimental with unknown outcomes on health and property including the possibility of subsidence under so many urban properties.

I am also concerned about evidence from Queensland and overseas on air quality and the cumulative impact of AGL's expansion into an area that already experiences incidents of unacceptable levels of air pollution (ozone and fine particles) associated with respiratory problems (NSW Environmental Protection Authority). AGL's past performance gives no confidence that it has not already contributed to this or that it can be managed in the future, having admitted in August this year that it had not conducted continuous air monitoring at its Rosalind Park Gas Treatment Plant for

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Allowing CSG mining in areas that are not zoned for heavy industry undermines zoning controls and confidence in the planning process, and creates severe land use conflicts, economic instability and inequity. It will disrupt religious communities whose vocations have so far been protected by the Scenic Hills zoning; it will place undue burden on small rural allotments whose capacity to cope is severely reduced by size (thereby threatening the survival of the entire historic Scenic Hills), and it is unsightly and unsafe in urban areas with a potential escalation in CSG mining incidents and accidents associated with the more intense urban activity (traffic, people etc.), the presence of children, and potential for vandalism. The consequent impact on land and house values for existing land and home owners may be devastating. For many people the home is their largest asset and is often leveraged to support small business. Any devaluation by bank assessors may destroy livelihoods and life savings.

I do not believe that the NSW Government's new regulations for CSG mining will ensure its safe operation here. As the only commercially producing CSG field in NSW, the Camden Gas Project has already been operating under consent conditions. Yet the NSW Government has not been able to ensure compliance, as evidenced by on-going breaches by AGL of its licence conditions, and the discovery of incidents that might not have been reported were it not for community vigilance, such as the Sugarloaf well incident in May 2011 in Menangle that allowed well contents to drift over Sydney's water channel and to nearby Glen Alpine houses.

The proposal poses risks to Sydney's water in general and to the South West in particular that have not been adequately assessed. While AGL claims that the geology of the Sydney Basin is well known, AGL's rationale for the constant modification of prior stages of the Camden Gas Project seems to contradict this, as does its admission to the Scenic Hills Association that it does not know where the aquifers here run to but probably Sydney Harbour. Potential impacts on Sydney Harbour, on the nearby Sydney Water Catchment, and AGL's proposal to run its gas gathering pipeline along Sydney's Upper Canal on public land are unacceptable risks to Sydney's water, and are an abuse of public property for the benefit of private investors.

AGL will only ever produce about 5% of NSW's gas from the Camden Gas Project according to evidence it gave under oath at the NSW Upper House Inquiry. This does not justify the risks and potential costs to the community, particularly since 150,000+ people already live and work in the immediate affected area, and this is in Sydney's south west growth corridor. It is socially, environmentally and economically unjustified, and has no social licence to operate here.

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Clay Preshaw - Camden Gas Project Stage 3, Project Application 09_0048

From: [REDACTED]
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/10/2012 6:22 PM
Subject: Camden Gas Project Stage 3, Project Application 09_0048
Attachments: AGL Opposal Letter PDF.pdf

Dear Sir/Madam,

My wife and I strongly object to AGL's Project Application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas in Campbelltown and Camden.

We have included a letter stating our comments.

We would not like our names to be made public on the Department's website or to AGL.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Eschol Park NSW 2558
[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,

Re: Proposed AGL Coal Seam Gas Wells

We are writing to you with our concerns regarding the proposed AGL Coal Seam Gas wells for the Camden north project area, specifically the proposed wells to be located near Eschol Park.

We have owned a property in Eschol Park since June 2009 and we love it here. It's our own little piece of serenity from our busy working lives and we intend to raise a family here in the years to come.

However, on the 10th of July, 2012 we received a pamphlet from AGL regarding their 'update' for the Camden north project area, which included a crude map of our area (see attached), outlining proposed coal seam gas wells in close proximity to our home. Upon reviewing this map it appears that our property may be about 200 metres from a proposed well, numbered CU26.

Due to our concerns we contacted AGL's spokesperson Jenny O'Brien, who then invited us to an AGL open day so that we could have a better understanding of what nearby coal seam gas wells would entail.

In the lead up to the open day we collected articles featured in the local newspapers - these articles raised concerns about drilling noise, the Fracing technique, gas emission checks failure, potential water pollution at the Nepean River and possible expansion of the industry in the region.

We attended AGL's open day at the Rosalind Park Gas Plant on the 29th of September, 2012. Mike Roy, Jenny O'Brien and many other AGL employees went to great lengths to educate us on the process of extracting coal seam gas from depths which can be as far as 800m underground. The day also included a tour of local new and existing coal seam gas wells.

Despite AGL's reassurances, we are not convinced there would be no negative side effects, both short term and long term, caused by drilling gas wells near homes.

To begin with, AGL are only required to have (without permission from homeowners) a minimum distance of 200m between a gas well and a residential property. This seems a ridiculously small amount considering the complications which can arise from extracting gas from deep underground.

On the open day, AGL stated that 1,500,000 - 6,000,000 litres of liquid will be needed to be pumped into a gas well in order to extract the gas. They further stated that 1.5% of this liquid consists of chemicals and the remainder is water. If the total volume of liquid is between 1,500,000 - 6,000,000 litres it means that about 22,500 - 90,000 litres of chemicals will be used.

It is concerning that one chemical they disclosed is Potassium Chloride. The speaker, Mike Roy appeared to skim over this very quickly - he didn't list any negatives aspects of this chemical. We've done our own research and according to '*Forensic Science: Volume 9*' pages 33-36 published in 1977, it would take only 190 grams of Potassium Chloride to kill a 75kg human. This chemical is also used as the third and final drug delivered in the Lethal Injection process. This raises concerns about the chemicals which will remain underground and our property being downhill of the proposed area, the idea of having such a dangerous chemical injected underground is quite frightening.

Another concern is the drilling and ongoing maintenance of the gas wells. An article featured in the *Macarthur Chronicle* recently highlighted what a problem the noise of drilling around the clock had on residents and their lack of sleep as a result - the residents featured in the article are 750m away! When we asked AGL about the reported noise complaints they were very quick to blame the noise on some nearby building construction and assured us that their noise levels were slightly above that of a highway. We don't live near a highway though; here it is so peaceful and quiet that at night that we can hear the mooing of cows from the neighbouring dairy farm. AGL also claimed that without prompting from the community, they automatically set up sound barriers around the drilling to prevent excessive noise. Evidently for the residents in Menangle Park these barriers have not sufficed.

There is also the serious case to be made for earth tremors or earthquakes. AGL spokesperson, Mike Roy had to himself admit that there had been proof of earth tremors recorded of 2 and upwards on the Ricta scale caused by gas wells overseas. Logic and gravity dictates that removing a substance from underground will affect the earth above. This could result in a vast amount of damages, both to residential dwellings and our environment.

Also the notorious 'Fracing' technique which has been undertaken by AGL must come into question. Once banned by our government, this process can disturb gas encased underground in surrounding areas which would then emit gas into the atmosphere and into underground lakes. This can be evident in a documentary released in 2010 called 'Gasland'. This documentary covered how Hydraulic Fracing affected American-rural landowners who rely on ground bore-water. The most shocking detail in this documentary is when you see various landowners across America being able to ignite their own tap water with a small flame. You could fathom the countless problems which could arise and the affects to the health of the community and the environment.

Governments across the globe are developing legislation relating to Hydraulic Fracing (the same drilling process which is being used in Camden by AGL). In 2011, France became the first nation to ban Hydraulic Fracing. Other countries have placed a temporary moratorium on the practice. For example New York is in the process of banning this kind of drilling in state owned parks and other lands.

To make way for the drilling well, the land has to be cleared and excavated. We have seen such an area on the open day and it is quite ugly. An area which was once an untouched, beautiful landscape is overrun by trucks, portable buildings and loud drilling equipment. Continual clouds of dust are formed when such invasive procedures take place. Being downhill of such potential excavation, we find this particularly distressing. Especially when Campbelltown has experience such strong winds in the past years, we feel it would be naïve to believe this would not have a negative impact on the health of nearby residents and their families.

At the AGL open day, when asked about their established coal seam mine which is 40m away from the Nepean River and how they test for gas contamination, they stated that they conduct a bi-annual water test on samples taken from their well. This test checks for 'new water' in the extracted 'ancient water.' This would mean if 'new water' does appear in their test samples, it is proof that contamination of the Nepean River would have already occurred.

An AGL spokesperson stated that after the life of the coal seam mine (which is approximately 10-15 years) it is abandoned and cemented in. The 'Enquiry into Coal Seam Gas' submission number 457, by the Northern Illawarra Sustainability Alliance, dated 26th September, 2011 page 1, states: *'abandoned CSG exploration and mining wells pose an ongoing threat, with evidence suggesting casings and/or cement may fail within 80 years. This would cause aquifer contamination or methane release. Subsidence or an earthquake could simultaneously rupture any abandoned wells.'*

In conclusion, after listening to both AGL and fellow residents we feel very strongly that it is in the community's best interest to not allow the proposed Camden north gas well project to go ahead. We appeal to you to reject this and any future applications for the area.

We also believe that for future applications the minimum distance of 200m should be revised to a much greater distance in favour of families and their homes rather than mining companies. No one should have to be forced to live in such close proximity to something so hazardous that it has the potential to jeopardise their health, safety and environment.

If you would like to contact us you can do so on [REDACTED] by mail, or email us at [REDACTED]

Thank you for your time,
Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Eschol Park, NSW 2558

Clay Preshaw - Camden Gas Project Stage 3, Project Application 09_0048

From: [REDACTED]
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/3/2012 8:59 AM
Subject: Camden Gas Project Stage 3, Project Application 09_0048

3rd December 2012

[REDACTED]

Mining and Industry Projects

Department of Planning

GPO Box 39

SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

I object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas in Campbelltown and Camden. The reasons for my objection are stated below.

Untill there are 100% no doubts that this could cause health problems to people in the surrounding areas, or affect the envirnoment. 'Little risk' is NOT GOOD ENOUGH!

I do not want my name made public on the Department's website or to AGL.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Clay Preshaw - Camden Gas Project Stage 3, Project Application 09_0048

From: [REDACTED]
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/4/2012 9:56 PM
Subject: Camden Gas Project Stage 3, Project Application 09_0048

4 December 2012

Mining and Industry Projects

Department of Planning

GPO Box 39

SYDNEY NSW 2001

Sent by email to plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

I object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas in Campbelltown and Camden. The reasons for my objection are stated below.

Campbelltown / Camden has a large growing population, with many young families & children. Our health is being put at risk as there have not been any comprehensive studies to examine the long term environmental and health problems that projects of this type may cause. This is a human rights issue, as our right to live in a safe, healthy environment is being threatened without the people and local council being involved in the decision making. The residents of the Macarthur area have considered opinions and questions, and should not have their views overlooked.

I do not want our name made public on the Department's website or sent to AGL

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Clay Preshaw - Camden Gas Project Stage 3, Project Application 09_0048

From: [REDACTED]
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/3/2012 9:04 PM
Subject: Camden Gas Project Stage 3, Project Application 09_0048

3rd December 2012

[REDACTED]

Mining and Industry Projects

Department of Planning

GPO Box 39

SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

I object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas in Campbelltown and Camden. The reasons for my objection are stated below.

I don't believe it's safe. Do it away from residential areas.

I do not want my name made public on the Department's website or to AGL.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Clay Preshaw - Camden Gas Project Stage 3,Project Application 09 _ 0048

From: [REDACTED]
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/9/2012 2:51 PM
Subject: Camden Gas Project Stage 3,Project Application 09 _ 0048

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
RABY NSW 2566

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

8 December 2012

Dear Sir / Madam

Re : Camden Gas Project Stage 3 , Project Application 09 oo48

I object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas (CSG) in Campbelltown and Camden. The reasons for my objection are stated below.

To my understanding there is no independent monitoring of air and groundwater, which is a great concern. Self monitoring or pay somebody to do it is not independent.

I have been a resident in Raby for 28 Years and I appreciate the Historic Scenic Hills.

They should be kept untouched by developers or mining.

I believe that even low emission impact and low risk CSG projects should not be operating in residential and Drinkwater reserves- canals regions. There is a risk of wells leaking noxious gases and particles in the air and rivers in years to come. I am concerned that irreversible damage to the environment will occur as it has happened overseas.

The impact on people's health and the costs on the medical system in years to come could be enormous.

The pressure on local infrastructure, traffic , noise and air pollution (environment) will put stress on people's health.

The devaluation of real estate in the mining effected region will be high.

I believe not many people will buy a house where mining is taking place and it would be very difficult for current residents to sell their property for a fair price if the coal seam gas mining takes effect.

I don't want my name made public on the Department's website or to AGL.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

Clay Preshaw - coal seam gas mining in Campbelltown and Camden

From: [REDACTED]
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/5/2012 9:28 PM
Subject: coal seam gas mining in Campbelltown and Camden

5 December 2012

Mining and Industry Projects

Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Sent by email to plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

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

We object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas in Campbelltown and Camden. The reasons for our objection are stated below.

This mining process has proven detrimental health implications for the community. The poisoning of underground water tables with toxic chemicals involved in fracking and the release of poisonous gases into the atmosphere are clear consequences of this process in areas where it has been allowed to proceed. This should be completely unacceptable in any populated area, let alone a suburban residential environment. How could you even consider putting at risk the health and wellbeing of the communities you were elected to serve for short sighted profit?

There is also no need for this type of risky mining as the fuel supply needs of Australia are already catered for through alternative, less invasive and less risky sources.

Coal seam gas mining in the scenic hills of the Campbelltown and Camden area? We say, NEVER!

We are making this submission to you in confidence and do not want our names to be made public on the Department's website or to AGL.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

4.12.2012

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Sent by email to plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au [delete this if sending by fax or mail]

Dear Sir/Madam

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

[I/we] object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas in Campbelltown and Camden. The reasons for [my/our] objection are stated below.

Look at the facts, not the money to be made. Take care of the people not just yourself.

Stop being selfish. It has been proven in QLD that peoples health is at risk.

If you think there is no health risk, well I invite you to live in the vicinity of the CSG mining, with your families

I do not wish to be named publicaly on the AGL website or other.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Clay Preshaw - Re: Camden Gas Project Stage 3, Project Application 09_0048

From: [REDACTED]
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/9/2012 8:39 AM
Subject: Re: Camden Gas Project Stage 3, Project Application 09_0048

To:
 Mining and Industry Projects
 Department of Planning
 GPO Box 39
 SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

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

I object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas (CSG) in Campbelltown and Camden. The key reasons for my objection are stated below.

I am concerned that CSG mining is a technologically-evolving industry whose impacts have not been independently and scientifically fully researched and remain largely unknown. This view is supported by professional organisations and academics in evidence to the NSW Upper House and Senate Inquiries into Coal Seam Gas Mining in 2011 and by subsequent research here and overseas. We have had to rely on the industry for much of our information when the industry has a vested interest in the outcome. AGL is no different. It claims that the Camden Gas Project has been safely operating for 10 years. Yet we understand that impacts on groundwater and air quality have not been adequately monitored, and while AGL has been operating under an Environmental Protection Licence (EPL No. 12003), it has been allowed to self-monitor its compliance, self-investigate incidents and self-report such that we do not know what true impacts it may have had. Third party consultants and external laboratories that are engaged and paid for by the industry are not *independent*. Nor is any funded or co-funded research by the CSG mining industry. These lessons should have been learnt with asbestos in Australia and with 'Big Tobacco' in the USA. The National Water Commission in its Position Statement (3rd December 2010) said that impacts may emerge over a long time period. I am deeply concerned that the costs of unforeseen problems will be borne by the community and taxpayers after AGL is long gone from the area. This is grossly irresponsible.

Doctors for the Environment Australia claims that health impacts from CSG mining have not been assessed. Preliminary research from Queensland (e.g. by Southern Cross University in Tara) and overseas is deeply concerning, especially where fracking has been used. As at December 2011, 85% of the production wells in the Camden Gas Project had been fracked (evidence from the NSW Upper House Inquiry) with inadequate monitoring of its impacts on water in particular. AGL claims that the use of horizontal wells in the proposed Stage 3 will reduce the need for fracking, but it seems that this is not entirely true since it has reserved the right to frack these wells in the future if/when the technology becomes available. The size of the proposed well clusters and any fracking of horizontal wells are both new and untested here. It will therefore be entirely experimental with unknown outcomes on health and property including the possibility of subsidence under so many urban properties.

I am also concerned about evidence from Queensland and overseas on air quality and the cumulative impact of AGL's expansion into an area that already experiences incidents of unacceptable levels of air pollution (ozone and fine particles) associated with respiratory problems (NSW Environmental Protection Authority). AGL's past performance gives no confidence that it has not already contributed to this or that it can be managed in the future, having admitted in August this year that it had not conducted continuous air monitoring at its Rosalind Park Gas Treatment Plant for three years in breach of its EPL No.12003.

Allowing CSG mining in areas that are not zoned for heavy industry undermines zoning controls and

confidence in the planning process, and creates severe land use conflicts, economic instability and inequity. It will disrupt religious communities whose vocations have so far been protected by the Scenic Hills zoning; it will place undue burden on small rural allotments whose capacity to cope is severely reduced by size (thereby threatening the survival of the entire historic Scenic Hills), and it is unsightly and unsafe in urban areas with a potential escalation in CSG mining incidents and accidents associated with the more intense urban activity (traffic, people etc.), the presence of children, and potential for vandalism. The consequent impact on land and house values for existing land and home owners may be devastating. For many people the home is their largest asset and is often leveraged to support small business. Any devaluation by bank assessors may destroy livelihoods and life savings.

I do not believe that the NSW Government's new regulations for CSG mining will ensure its safe operation here. As the only commercially producing CSG field in NSW, the Camden Gas Project has already been operating under consent conditions. Yet the NSW Government has not been able to ensure compliance, as evidenced by on-going breaches by AGL of its licence conditions, and the discovery of incidents that might not have been reported were it not for community vigilance, such as the Sugarloaf well incident in May 2011 in Menangle that allowed well contents to drift over Sydney's water channel and to nearby Glen Alpine houses.

The proposal poses risks to Sydney's water in general and to the South West in particular that have not been adequately assessed. While AGL claims that the *geology of the Sydney Basin is well known*, AGL's rationale for the constant modification of prior stages of the Camden Gas Project seems to contradict this, as does its admission to the Scenic Hills Association that it does not know where the aquifers here run to but *probably Sydney Harbour*. Potential impacts on Sydney Harbour, on the nearby Sydney Water Catchment, and AGL's proposal to run its gas gathering pipeline along Sydney's Upper Canal on public land are unacceptable risks to Sydney's water, and are an abuse of public property for the benefit of private investors.

AGL will only ever produce about 5% of NSW's gas from the Camden Gas Project according to evidence it gave under oath at the NSW Upper House Inquiry. This does not justify the risks and potential costs to the community, particularly since 150,000+ people already live and work in the immediate affected area, and this is in Sydney's south west growth corridor. It is socially, environmentally and economically unjustified, and has no social licence to operate here.

I wish that my name not appear on my submission when publicly exhibited.

Yours sincerely,



Clay Preshaw - Re: Camden Gas Project Stage 3, Project Application 09_0048

From: [REDACTED]
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/9/2012 8:39 AM
Subject: Re: Camden Gas Project Stage 3, Project Application 09_0048

To:
Mining and Industry Projects
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

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

I object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas (CSG) in Campbelltown and Camden. The key reasons for my objection are stated below.

I am concerned that CSG mining is a technologically-evolving industry whose impacts have not been independently and scientifically fully researched and remain largely unknown. This view is supported by professional organisations and academics in evidence to the NSW Upper House and Senate Inquiries into Coal Seam Gas Mining in 2011 and by subsequent research here and overseas. We have had to rely on the industry for much of our information when the industry has a vested interest in the outcome. AGL is no different. It claims that the Camden Gas Project has been safely operating for 10 years. Yet we understand that impacts on groundwater and air quality have not been adequately monitored, and while AGL has been operating under an Environmental Protection Licence (EPL No. 12003), it has been allowed to self-monitor its compliance, self-investigate incidents and self-report such that we do not know what true impacts it may have had. Third party consultants and external laboratories that are engaged and paid for by the industry are not *independent*. Nor is any funded or co-funded research by the CSG mining industry. These lessons should have been learnt with asbestos in Australia and with 'Big Tobacco' in the USA. The National Water Commission in its Position Statement (3rd December 2010) said that impacts may emerge over a long time period. I am deeply concerned that the costs of unforeseen problems will be borne by the community and taxpayers after AGL is long gone from the area. This is grossly irresponsible.

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I am also concerned about evidence from Queensland and overseas on air quality and the cumulative impact of AGL's expansion into an area that already experiences incidents of unacceptable levels of air pollution (ozone and fine particles) associated with respiratory problems (NSW Environmental Protection Authority). AGL's past performance gives no confidence that it has not already contributed to this or that it can be managed in the future, having admitted in August this year that it had not conducted continuous air monitoring at its Rosalind Park Gas Treatment Plant for three years in breach of its EPL No.12003.

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confidence in the planning process, and creates severe land use conflicts, economic instability and inequity. It will disrupt religious communities whose vocations have so far been protected by the Scenic Hills zoning; it will place undue burden on small rural allotments whose capacity to cope is severely reduced by size (thereby threatening the survival of the entire historic Scenic Hills), and it is unsightly and unsafe in urban areas with a potential escalation in CSG mining incidents and accidents associated with the more intense urban activity (traffic, people etc.), the presence of children, and potential for vandalism. The consequent impact on land and house values for existing land and home owners may be devastating. For many people the home is their largest asset and is often leveraged to support small business. Any devaluation by bank assessors may destroy livelihoods and life savings.

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I wish that my name not appear on my submission when publicly exhibited.

Yours sincerely,



Clay Preshaw - Camden Gas Project stage 3, project application 09_0048

From: [REDACTED]
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/10/2012 5:11 PM
Subject: Camden Gas Project stage 3, project application 09_0048

Dear Sir

re Camden Gas Project stage 3, project application 09_0048

I object to the AGLs project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas in Campbelltown and Camden. The reason for my objection is stated below.

I have not heard a lot about this from our local papers and today find out we have until 18/12 to put in our reasons why we don't want it.

To my thinking I think if there is nothing to fear from this the papers would have been all over it to tell us there are no issues.

Camden and Campbelltown are catchment areas for the dams and reading a little about what happened in Qld scares me to think it may happen here as well.

Please do not make my name public on the AGL website.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

Clay Preshaw - no to coal seam gas

04/12/2012

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Lethbridge Park
n.s.w 2770

Dear Sir or Madam

Re Camden Gas Project stage 3 Project Application 09_0048

I object to AGL'S project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas in Campbelltown and Camden. The reasons for my objection are stated below.

I do not believe there has been enough research on the health issues and we are talking a very large area and i feel we are being sold out for a few pieces of silver. If we allow this to go through then where does it stop sick children every where. i have family in Camden and i dont want to see any child suffer .

And then you come into my area and the next and the next untill we have no Australia, i dont think so .

i do not want my name and address made public on the departments website or to AGL.

yours Sincerely

Clay Preshaw - Camden Gas Project stage 3, project application 09_0048

From: [REDACTED]
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/10/2012 5:11 PM
Subject: Camden Gas Project stage 3, project application 09_0048

Dear Sir

re Camden Gas Project stage 3, project application 09_0048

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Camden and Campbelltown are catchment areas for the dams and reading a little about what happened in Qld scares me to think it may happen here as well.

Please do not make my name public on the AGL website.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

Clay Preshaw - My submission of protest to the Camden Gas Project Stage 3, Project Application 09_0048

From: [REDACTED]
To: "plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au" <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/7/2012 10:57 AM
Subject: My submission of protest to the Camden Gas Project Stage 3, Project Application 09_0048

[REDACTED]
Raby, NSW 2566

7 December 2012

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

I object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas in Campbelltown and Camden. The reasons for my objection are stated below.

- a) I am concerned of the health issues that the gas wells would impact my family based on TV's reports as to the extent of gas leaks occurring in established CSG mining particularly in Queensland and in some parts of the U.S.A.
- b) I am concerned of the noise and disruption due to increased traffic by construction trucks during CSG mining when it comes near our area.
- c) I am concerned of my real estate property values to decline due to CSG wells nearby.

Please do not make my name public on the Department's website nor to AGL's.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Clay Preshaw - Camden Gas Project Stage 3

From: [REDACTED]
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/11/2012 4:08 PM
Subject: Camden Gas Project Stage 3

Dear Sir / Madam,

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

We object to AGL's project Application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas in Campbelltown and Camden. The reasons for our objection are stated below.

Nobody can tell us what **completely independent organisation** has been able to stand in front of the N.S.W. Upper House of Parliament and state everything done to extract C.S.G. is completely safe to people and the environment. The only people carrying out surveys as directed by Government to do are the A.G.L. and they are not doing so as instructed with the results obtained by them not being expressed truthfully and fully to the Independent Upper House enquiry in Parliament.

What will be the outcome to our air and water in 10 years time when A.G.L. cannot tell us now what damage will happen to our aquifers as they have not published any results from testing and they DO NOT even know where the aquifers start and finish.

Environment Australia Doctors claim that impact from C.S.G. mining has not been assessed especially where C.S.G. fracking has been carried out. Camden wells have had 85% fracking and the N.S.W. Upper House enquiry has found that inadequate monitoring only was carried out and now A.G.L. wants to dig wells with / without fracking horizontally and this procedure is completely untested here so they don't know what will happen.

We have heard that there has been explosions and subsidence when testing horizontal wells. Will they pay for any damage to our home and land if this happens not only now but in the future?

The National Water Commission has warned about the cumulative impact of C.S.G. extraction's.

The National Toxics Network says many of the chemicals used in drilling and fracking are not approved for safe usage.

Doctors for the Environment says health impact from C.S.G. extraction has not been assessed.

There has been non-compliance with licence conditions with the Camden Gas

Projects Environmental Protection Licence (EPL No. 12003) in each year since it was issued in 2004.

In August A.G.L. admitted it had failed to conduct continuous air monitoring at its Rosalind Park Gas treatment Plant for 3 years in breach of it's E.P.L., now the object of an investigation by the E.P.A.

This is another reason to STOP A.G.L. as this will be happening in RESIDENTIAL AREAS.

All zoning laws have been thrown out the window just to please A.G.L. so they can sell our gas overseas and NOT sell the extra gas to N.S.W. at a reduced price as Gas companies have to do by law in other first world countries but here they will only increase the price of our gas to the same as overseas market prices.

A.G.L. will only produce 5% of its gas from the Camden wells yet it could produce 100% devastation to our health, air and water quality (Refer to Tara in Qld.) just so it can sell gas overseas.

How can you trust A.G.L. to do anything properly as they are telling the Government authorities to go to hell? **No gas projects should ever be carried out in or near any residential areas.**

THIS MUST BE STOPPED FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE PEOPLE OF MACARTHUR AND EVENTUALLY THE PEOPLE OF N.S.W.

Please withhold our names as we are customers of A.G.L.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Clay Preshaw - Camden Gas Project Stage 3, Project Application 09_0048

From: [REDACTED] >
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/4/2012 1:21 PM
Subject: Camden Gas Project Stage 3, Project Application 09_0048

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
4 December 2012

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

I object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas in Campbelltown and Camden. The reasons for my objection are stated below.

- a) I am concerned of the health issues that the gas wells would impact my family based on TV's reports as to the extent of gas leaks occurring in established CSG mining particularly in Queensland and in some parts of the U.S.A.
- b) I am concerned of the noise and disruption due to increased traffic by construction trucks during CSG mining when it comes near our area.
- c) I am concerned of my real estate property values to decline due to CSG wells nearby.

Please do not make my name public on the Department's website nor to AGL's.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Clay Preshaw - My submission of protest to the Camden Gas Project Stage 3, Project Application 09_0048

From: [REDACTED]
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/2/2012 4:05 PM
Subject: My submission of protest to the Camden Gas Project Stage 3, Project Application 09_0048

[REDACTED]
2 December 2012

Mining and Industry Projects

Department of Planning

GPO Box 39

SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

I object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas in Campbelltown and Camden. The reasons for my objection are stated below.

- a) I am concerned of the health issues that the gas wells would impact my family based on TV's reports as to the extent of gas leaks occurring in established CSG mining particularly in Queensland and in some parts of the U.S.A.
- b) I am concerned of the noise and disruption due to increased traffic by construction trucks during CSG mining when it comes near our area.
- c) I am concerned of my real estate property values to decline due to CSG wells nearby.

Please do not make my name public on the Department's website nor to AGL's.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

6th December 2012

[REDACTED] Clemton Park NSW 2206

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

Sent by email to plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

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

We object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas in Campbelltown and Camden. The reasons for our objection are stated below.

This is a residential area, mining has no place here.

- (1) AGL's plan for CSG mining (& fracking) of Sydney will industrialise our suburbs & green spaces with uncertain impacts on our health, environment, livelihoods and land

(2) (2) Campbelltown and Camden urban areas will be fracked!

As at December 2011 (according to information provided to the NSW Upper House Inquiry into Coal Seam Gas), 85% of the production wells in the Camden Gas Project area of Wollondilly, Camden and the outskirts of Campbelltown, had been fracked. This compares with statistics provided by Doctors for the Environment Australia to the 2011 Senate Inquiry (coal seam gas) of 10-40% of wells in Queensland. AGL has said it will continue to frack vertical wells in Stage 3 and will frack the horizontal wells if the technology permits it in the future.

3) Health & safety issues:

On the 14th November 2012, academic researchers from the Southern Cross University in Queensland found methane levels at 3.5 times the expected level at the Tara Estate in Queensland. We do not want to face the same issues here.

I **do not** wish to have my name made public on the Department's website or to AGL.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Clay Preshaw - CAMDEN GAS PROJECT STAGE 3, PROJECT APPLICATION 09_0048

From: [REDACTED]
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 11/27/2012 12:04 PM
Subject: CAMDEN GAS PROJECT STAGE 3, PROJECT APPLICATION 09_0048

Dear Sir / Madam,

With respect to the CAMDEN GAS PROJECT STAGE 3, PROJECT APPLICATION 09_0048, I would like to object to this application by AGL for coal seam gas mining in the areas of Camden and Campbelltown.

My reasons for objection are the potential for increased pollution, possibility for damage to the environment and especially to water courses and aquifers. It has never been 100% proven that the process for gas extraction is safe and I am very concerned that any environmental damage that occurs will not be held against AGL, rather excuses will be found to blame any issues on something else. Basically if it happens underground no-one can be sure what has caused it and I feel the mining companies will use this as an excuse when issue do occur. In most likely any issues are the result of the mining.

I am not convinced of the need for extra gas supplies, numerous reports have been made that we have many hundreds of years gas supply available and the only reports I hear of gas shortages are made by AGL who has it in their interest to create an artificial shortage.

Also I am concerned about reports that the mining will increase methane emissions. The area already suffers from pollution issues and methane is a highly effective greenhouse gas and we certainly do not need any more of those types of gases released into the atmosphere.

I am also concerned with the visual eyesore of the well heads around the area plus the increased traffic that it will bring.

I have not received any information from AGL on this issue even though I have heard them indicate that they have letterbox dropped about the issue even though I live in the area affected.

I request my name is not made public on the Department's website or given to AGL.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[New South Wales Government](#)

[Department of Planning](#)

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[Home](#) > [Development Assessments](#) > [Major Project Assessments](#)

(Name withheld), of Denham Court NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

Firstly, I would like my identity to be withheld.

As a Campbelltown council ratepayer, I am writing to register my objection to coal seam gas mining not only throughout the Macarthur and Scenic Hills regions, but all of NSW.

I find it almost unbelievable that there is even a thought about mining in this region. The risks and long term effects are not fully understood and some are not known. You do not experiment with people's lives, health and livelihood. Indications to date are that the effects are detrimental to both flora and fauna and human beings. This region is one of the fastest growing areas of population in NSW, and areas like the Scenic Hills have been long listed as areas for environmental protection.

This area has substantial beef production, dairying, cropping, horse breeding, viticulture and tourism. I cannot believe you are willing to risk this for a one off fee.

Gas wells require the release of methane to relieve the pressure in the wells. This is burnt or released directly into the atmosphere. Hydrogen sulphide and other toxic gasses and elements are often present in coal seams and are also released. These are very toxic. Hydrogen sulphide is deadly and no one can smell it. It's a silent killer. This is not an innocent activity, and there is endless literature on harmful and even land use degradation resulting from these activities.

Furthermore, CSG is not a 'low emission' fuel, see paper by Howarth et al. at: (<http://www.springerlink.com/content/e384226wr4160653/fulltext.pdf>).

CSG extraction will destroy aquifers and poison ground and surface waters and the air as well as contributing greatly to global warming.

Excessive groundwater extraction has led to surface subsidence of 8 metres in the San Joaquin valley in California and in many other areas. CSG extraction also extracts massive amounts of water and will also cause land subsidence which will affect infrastructure, river flows and could cause aquifer fractures that will drain and/or contaminate surface rivers and streams.

The fact that there seems to be a short term cash grab based on uninformed biased theories for an unsustainable mining resource without thought for future astounds me. Shouldn't we be putting our energy towards greener, sustainable fuels?

Is this practice going to be the asbestos of the future?

If you choose to go ahead with this plan (and I must say, at your peril), at least put policies and procedures in place such as

- Royalties and bonding need to be set aside to manage the potential medium-long term risks of current mining and CSG activities;
- Structure for compensation to landholders needs to be strengthened considerably, and the landholders should be given the right to say no; This process needs to be administered by an independent body;
- Compensation to the landholder should incorporate potential loss of land productivity and agricultural livelihood due to interference to the aquifers. It is largely recognised, that given the immaturity of the CSG industry, the long term impact of their activities is unknown. Accordingly, it should not be unreasonable for the landholder to set the appropriate compensation, up to levels which would be equivalent to premium market value for the land.
- We should require mining and CSG proponents to provide funding for landholders to engage independent and comprehensive base line assessment prior to exploration, and pay other costs associated with their activities;
- We need to ensure the Aquifer Interference Policy is widely applicable and reflective of the uncertain long term nature of mining and CSG activities;
- We should also prohibit the use of evaporation ponds and perform further diligence on the process of hydraulic fracturing and more specifically, the chemicals used.
- The Government needs to maintain a moratorium on fracking until all fracking chemicals have been tested by the national regulator, including simulated in-situ testing. The government should also keep an up to date public register of fracking sites, including fracking chemicals and quantities used.

There is sadly far too much real evidence of damage from mining in NSW. I reference for example the loss of river systems from the Southern Highlands from longwall mining, the total loss of South Wambo Creek at Bulga and the pathetic and futile attempts to restore water flow there by "wrapping the creek bed in builders plastic". Once it's gone, it's gone. Energy companies also don't have the best track record in their environmental protection (note BP Gulf Coast, Exxon oil spill, etc).

I would also like to paste a link to a document to further support area protection claims, covering the areas aboriginal importance, historical significance, rich wildlife, etc. Do not overburden such a delicate and important landscape.

<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=5ho8xOhcy9c%3D&tabid=205&mid=1081&language=en-US>

I strongly support a moratorium on CSG exploration and extraction until such time as we have the science, strategic planning and regulatory framework to guarantee protection of water resources, public health, and the environment. Even our best academics seem to support this approach.

- Attachment: [csg.pdf](#)

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Furthermore, CSG is not a 'low emission' fuel, see paper by Howarth et al. at: (<http://www.springerlink.com/content/e384226wr4160653/fulltext.pdf>). CSG extraction will destroy aquifers and poison ground and surface waters and the air as well as contributing greatly to global warming.

Excessive groundwater extraction has led to surface subsidence of 8 metres in the San Joaquin valley in California and in many other areas. CSG extraction also extracts massive amounts of water and will also cause land subsidence which will affect infrastructure, river flows and could cause aquifer fractures that will drain and/or contaminate surface rivers and streams.

The fact that there seems to be a short term cash grab based on uninformed biased theories for an unsustainable mining resource without thought for future astounds me. **Shouldn't we be putting our energy towards greener, sustainable fuels?**

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I would also like to paste a link to a document to further support area protection claims, covering the areas aboriginal importance, historical significance, rich wildlife, etc. Do not overburden such a delicate and important landscape.

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I strongly support a moratorium on CSG exploration and extraction until such time as we have the science, strategic planning and regulatory framework to guarantee protection of water resources, public health, and the environment. Even our best academics seem to support this approach.

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[Home](#) > [Development Assessments](#) > [Major Project Assessments](#)

(Name withheld), of Denham Court NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

Firstly, I would like my identity to be withheld.

As a Campbelltown council ratepayer, I am writing to register my objection to coal seam gas mining not only throughout the Macarthur and Scenic Hills regions, but all of NSW. I would also like to state, that the consultation regarding this, especially for Denham Court has been appalling- living in a rural location, we often do not receive local newspapers and no formal letters or notifications have been received. I find this odd, even sneaky considering 2 wells are planned for this area.

I find it almost unbelievable that there is even a thought about mining in this region. The risks and long term effects are not fully understood and some are not known.

You do not experiment with people's lives, health and livelihood. Indications to date are that the effects are detrimental to both flora and fauna and human beings. This region is one of the fastest growing areas of population in NSW, and areas like the Scenic Hills have been long listed as areas for environmental protection.

This area has substantial beef production, dairying, cropping, horse breeding, viticulture and tourism. I cannot believe you are willing to risk this for a one off fee. Gas wells require the release of methane to relieve the pressure in the wells. This is burnt or released directly into the atmosphere. Hydrogen sulphide and other toxic gasses and elements are often present in coal seams and are also released. These are very toxic. Hydrogen sulphide is deadly and no one can smell it. It's a silent killer. This is not an innocent activity, and there is endless literature on harmful and even land use degradation resulting from these activities.

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CSG extraction will destroy aquifers and poison ground and surface waters and the air as well as contributing greatly to global warming.

Excessive groundwater extraction has led to surface subsidence of 8 metres in the San Joaquin valley in California and in many other areas. CSG extraction also extracts massive amounts of water and will also cause land subsidence which will affect infrastructure, river flows and could cause aquifer fractures that will drain and/or contaminate surface rivers and streams.

The fact that there seems to be a short term cash grab based on uninformed biased theories for an unsustainable mining resource without thought for future astounds me. Shouldn't we be putting our energy towards greener, sustainable fuels?

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<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=5ho8xOhcy9c%3D&tabid=205&mid=1081&language=en-US>

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- Attachment: [csg2.pdf](#)

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- Structure for compensation to landholders needs to be strengthened considerably, and the landholders should be given the right to say no; This process needs to be administered by an independent body;
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[Department of Planning](#)

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(Name withheld), of Macarthur Sqaure NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

vote NO

[New South Wales Government](#)

[Department of Planning](#)

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(Name withheld), of Ingleburn NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

I strongly oppose coal seam gas mining/exploration in the Ingleburn and Campbelltown/Macarthur region.

[New South Wales Government](#)

[Department of Planning](#)

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(Name withheld), of Gregory Hills NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

My husband and I are currently building our first family home on Gregory Hills. I believe it is highly inappropriate that AGL use our residential community and surrounding areas for Coal Seam Gas Mining. Not only are any ill health effects of such mining unknown, but the potential for the land value to depreciate is unacceptable. We have invested in this community hoping to raise a family here, however if Coal Seam Gas Mining was to be implemented I would not be interested in living in, or around the camden or Campbelltown area, as im sure a large number of residents would agree. This proposition should not be considered nor allowed for the best interest of our beautiful city and its residents.

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(Name withheld), of Narellan Vale NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion



Objects to this project

I OBJECT TO THE STAGE 3 CSG PROJECT.

HEALTH ISSUES BEING THE MAIN FACTOR FOR MY YOUNG FAMILY AND MYSELF.

From: [REDACTED]
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/15/2012 11:50 pm
Subject: Don't Sacrifice Greater Western Sydney to Coal Seam Gas

[REDACTED]
-Please refrain from making my Name and address public-

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,

[REDACTED]

12.12.12

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Lugarno NSW 2210

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

Dear Sir/Madam

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

I object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas in Campbelltown and Camden. The reasons for my objection are stated below.

This project is severely risking the communities health in these areas and should not be allowed here or anywhere else. And where is freedom of choice, these people have no say in what will happen to their wellbeing, all for the profiteering of AGL.

Please do not publish my name on the Department's website or to AGL

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/16/2012 3:33 pm
Subject: Camden Gas Project Stage 3, Project Application 09_0048

16th December 2012

[REDACTED] KEARNSNSW 2558

Dear Sir/Madam

I object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine for coal gas in Campbelltown. The reasons for my objection are explained below.

This is not clean energy usage - surely Australia is trying to move away from the polluting greenhouse gases that stem from coal seam gas production. Investing in coal seam gas will mean that NSW will be stuck with fossil fuels for many, many years to come. A more suitable and commonsense approach would be investing in renewable energy such as from the sun and wind. Solar energy could be used to generate electricity 24/7. It's clean and would create many jobs. Toxic waste water - millions of litres of toxic waste water being produced and being dumped. Where? Who will want it near them and how much more of our precious resources are to be used in "cleaning it up" before it get's dumped?

Ruins the land - pipelines under the ground, toxic chemicals used in fracking that can contaminate underground water and disrupt sensitive land. Any leakage whatsoever is an environmental disaster. We have a strip of land called The Scenic Hills and it is one of the last reasonably unspoiled pieces of land left in Sydney. Why does it have to be considered for coal seam gas mining? Once this land is ruined it's gone forever.

This is my home and community that is being aimed at. I do not want underground pipes running under my home with the potential for causing damage to it. I do not want to risk my child's health because there may be some leakage in the future. If AGL posts signs of "caution explosive gas" or any other hazardous signs near these tower areas, then doesn't that in itself imply how dangerous they are. How dare AGL or anyone try to impose these onto people who do not want them. Once AGL get's the go ahead for this, thousand of people in this area will just have to "put up" with whatever problems come along in the near or distant future. We would never be able to fight a company like AGL with all their (actually profits from their customer's) money.

We the public do not have the money to stand up to AGL and conduct our own studies. It seems that we usually just have to put up with a lot of what get's dished up to us. We rely on our local, state and federal government's to act in our BEST interest. There needs to be independent studies done to see just how safe a venture like this is with all these towers being built, toxic waste being produced, and tunnels running under thousands of homes, schools and businesses. More importantly any independent studies need to take a close look at some areas around Australia that have been affected negatively with coal seam gas mining. Serious questions need to be asked. For example, is this venture 100% safe? Is there no risk of pollution, environmental and health problems so close to a community of thousands of people? Is there potential to damage their homes with underground fracking? The obvious answer is it is NOT 100% safe. Therefore how on earth can this project go ahead.

Our local MP's are not supportive of AGL building these tower's, and everything that comes with them, in and around thousands of people's homes.

I do not want my name made public on the Department's website or to AGL.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] >
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/17/2012 10:31 pm
Subject: Don't Sacrifice Greater Western Sydney to Coal Seam Gas

MY ADDRESS: [REDACTED] (Name and address not for publication)

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,

[REDACTED]
(Name and address not for publication)

From: [REDACTED]
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/13/2012 9:07 am
Subject: Don't Sacrifice Greater Western Sydney to Coal Seam Gas

[REDACTED]
Macarthur
ACT 2904

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.
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- 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,

[REDACTED]

Please note: I wish my name to be withheld from publication

12th December 2012

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
ST ANDREWS NSW 2566

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

Sent by email to plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

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

We object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas in Campbelltown and Camden. The reasons for our objection are stated below.

We do not have sufficient understanding of this procedure and going on the research that we have conducted, and the state of the Queensland mining in "Tara", this appears to be nothing but an extremely dangerous and hazardous exercise. To play with people's lives and their livelihood in this fashion is nothing short of appalling. The under handed nature in which this has been carried out is also disgraceful. This project should be stopped until such time as the people have a clear understanding of the Coal Seam Gas mining process, we should also be allowed to have a voice as to whether we would like this process to take place, and after all it will be our children left to clean up any mess.

[I do NOT want my name made public on the Department's website or to AGL]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/17/2012 10:17 pm
Subject: Please don't destroy Greater Western Sydney with Coal Seam Gas mining.

[REDACTED]
Markwell NSW
2423

Re: Stage 3 of the Camden Gas Project - Project Application 09_0048

Please accept this as a submission in regard to the Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion which is currently on public exhibition. I greatly object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to drill for coal seam gas in Western Sydney. Sydney is expanding at a rapid rate and needs as much CLEAN land and water as it can get. Mining is not compatible with this model. The Sydney catchment must remain as clean as possible to provide for the future projected population(s) of 6 million plus people.

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. AGL has no interest in human health and is only motivated by profit (in my opinion).

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

- Clean soil and water are fundamental to human health and wellbeing.
- A healthy environment is a legacy we can be proud of. Sydney's 'clean green' image is under threat with development such as coal seam gas mining.
- 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 years. 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,
[REDACTED]

Please do not publish my address or personal details.



PLANT
Camden NSW 2570

12th December 2012

Tel 02 46581471

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

Department of Planning
Received
21 DEC 2012
Scanning Room

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Camden Gas Project Stage 3, Project Application 09 _ 0048

We are writing to your office to object to AGL's (Australian Gas Light) application 09 _ 0048 to mine for Coal Seam Gas (CSG) in the Campbelltown and Camden (Macarthur region). The reasons for our objections are stated below.

- We have enclosed two media releases from The Hon Chris Hartcher - Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, Minister for the Central Coast, dated Thursday 21 July 2011 and Tuesday 6 March 2012 which expresses tough new conditions for coal and coal seam gas and tougher controls on CSG. **It is our belief that AGL needs to radically improve its record of testing, communicating with the public, rather than through committees, in these areas, and seek your departments commitment to monitor the conditions results etc in the press releases, using real independent assessors and NATA approved laboratories to carry out any testing required in plain english. The citizens of Macarthur have a right to know what the full story is, rather than what AGL wishes the citizens to know.**

- We have enclosed a copy from The Sunday Telegraph 9th December 2012 which clearly shows in headlines that the NSW State Members the of NSW Parliament of the electorates Wollondilly, Camden and Campbelltown Jai Rowell MP for Wollondilly, Chris Patterson MP for Camden and Brian Doyle, Member for Campbelltown have publically announced they will oppose any expansion in Sydney's South Western Suburbs, and the Councils of Camden, Campbelltown and Wollondilly are opposed the CSG projects which is a true reflection of the feeling of the MAJORITY of people in the Macarthur area. **We trust that your department will take particular note of our Members and Councils sentiments.**

- It is now a fact that the rapid and massive expansion and development in the Camden LGA from Elderslie to Narellan to Harrington Park to Oran Park to Leppington and Catherine Field and East to Smeaton Grange, Gregory Hills, Mount Annan, the Scenic Hills and the Campbelltown developments and Wollondilly developments; in Camden LGA alone some 300,000 persons will be arriving over the next 20 - 30 years, plus the already present population, plus future population expansion outside Camden LGA are to be exposed to lifetimes of CSG exploration and mining -

ALL BUILT ON A GAS FIELD(S)

which includes the proposed Badgerys Creek International Airport. It is our view that this alone should be sufficient to disallow totally this proposal, and stop wasting peoples time, and worry, particularly consider our children and grandchildren's future living on a gas field..

The Macarthur area is not an industrial site. CSG is a toxic, highly inflammable and very explosive dangerous chemical.

Where are the medical studies?

- There are some 60 odd CSG wells to be explored and gas produced from these wells; and the drilling could be from up to 6 individual wells from the same well site. It is reported that the wells could go up to 1 kilometre down and up to 2.5 kilometres laterally. **That covers an area of about 6 square kilometres explored per multihead well underground, beneath residents' houses, industrial sites, towns, farms, rivers, creeks, flood plains, historic sites, and so on. The process of Fracking will also occur during the drilling which should be prohibited as too risky.** So there is the potential to drill for CSG under the AGL model for around 300 sq kms square kilometres under the proposed total development of Camden LGA using multihead wells. **AGL should be compelled to complete a risk management study to world's best practice of the safety of their total proposal for Macarthur. This should be released to the public, who should also be invited to participate, and give their views. To the best of our knowledge, no comprehensive risk management assessments have been carried out on all aspects of this proposal to include CSG exploration and mining, collection, storage, distribution, safety, waste disposal and treatment, and so on.**

- Most areas in Macarthur, Extractive Industries and mines are prohibited. Most development into the future will be for residential purposes, light industries, community open space, agriculture, universities, entertainment centres, sporting activities, recreational open space, open space, vineyards, agriculture on the Nepean flood plain, our aquifers and underground water systems, air quality and so on. **To the best of our knowledge, on these types of developments, mining and extractive industries are prohibited. Again to the best of our knowledge, buyers of land/packaged land/houses are not informed of what could be going on with CGS mining in the areas under review and generally. It is our opinion that such practices should be deemed illegal, and purchasers should be advised of what is going on, and this should apply to banks, real-estate agents, mortgage providers, developers, builders, solicitors, local councils and the like, as we now believe that our property in Elderslie will be devalued, as experienced in other parts of Australia when it becomes common knowledge that we are living on a gas field which is being, explored, mined and CSG recovered etc under our land.**

Just what sort of place will Camden LGA be, built on a CGS field

Do you intend to let the residents know immediately that they are now living on an active gas field, and if not, why not!

- AGL have admitted they do not know where the Aquifers are. Why, after so long in the area do they not know this? They have a responsibility to know where they are and the water analysis of the aquifers, **done by a NATA registered laboratory, and the location and water analysis on public display. This should be a mandatory condition of consent to proceed and a condition of licence approval.** The full impacts on ground water in stages of the project remain unknown due to very poor reporting of Data. Full water analysis of these waters should be freely available, and the analysis done by a NATA certified laboratory. Additionally, risk management assessments regarding contamination of aquifers should be done and made available to the public for comment.

- AGL has admitted failure to carry out continuous air monitoring at one of its treatment plants for 3 years in breach of its conditions to operate. Why has this been allowed to happen, and why have they been allowed to continue to operate. **All conditions given to operate this CGS venture by AGL should be enforced or else AGL should be shut down. The authorities do not seem to understand what they are dealing with, which is the production of a highly inflammable, explosive and toxic chemical plant operating in a major growth area. Please understand, there will be gas leaks from the plant and equipment, there will be gas leaks from the underground gas pipes, particularly where Fracking has occurred, which will become fugitive gas. We understand that their already has been gas leaks bubbling into the Nepean, in the Douglas Park/ Menangle areas**

- **AGL will use Fracking to release the CSG, although we have been informed that the NSW Government is refusing to release of the report of the Chief Scientist into its safety. WHY ! It is our opinion that until this report is released, Fracking is a dangerous and hazard process and this project. When to government decides to release this report, in its original form, and released for comment then all persons commenting on this project will have commented on an incomplete proposal. We reserve the right to comment on this secret report when released, and study it in the context of the present proposal. Chemicals used in Fracking are hazardous, dangerous, and carcinogenic both in liquid form and gaseous form. AGL do not want us to know what Chemicals they contain. AGL should be forced to produce MSDS's on all the Chemicals they use and produce, and when they change chemicals.**

Where is the NSW Department of Health in this project, Do they have a view on safety, air quality safety. Air quality plays a major role when Sydney's second airport was being discussed. Now many square kilometres are being developed as gas fields - not a peep! WHY!!

- As stated above, AGL are a poor corporate citizen regarding release of essential information to the public and maintaining compliance with environmental conditions. Monitoring of atmospheric air composition around the plant and general background air composition before and during operations should be available to the public, **and the testing done by NATA certified laboratories.** Three years to conduct air monitoring is a long time and there is no excuse, and points to corporate arrogance and disrespect to the thousands of citizens who may have to live with their CGS mines within AGL., and have no clue what is going on.

- What concerns us is that this industry is an infant industry, in a hurry, which is reflected in our views and mistrust of the industry and their haste to forge ahead in a hurry. This contribution allows us all to take a deep breathe, to express our contribution to this debate and trust that you will seriously consider them in this very important inquiry into a the CSG inquiry, an industry that can last for decades.

- **We certainly urge Department of Planning Committee to very seriously consider all points made from all contributors both for and against, as well as AGL, and release all documents resulting in your reasons for approving, disapproving, answering all questions put to your committee, within a reasonable timeframe.**

- The Growth Centre of Camden LGA earmarked for development of our new city, the reported size of Canberra, should be clearly marked on all development maps plus an extra 3kms additional border to exclude lateral mining, which should mark the exclusion zone, for CGS mining. Also to be excluded plus 3kms should be all rivers and creeks, dams, catchment areas and collected water for farming. Productive farming land, including the Nepean flood plain should be excluded. This principal should apply to Macarthur area plus all historic sites, and all villages and towns outside the Macarthur boundary, and include all aquifers. All areas outside this proposed exclusion zone should be fully monitored for air quality and air quality, carried out by NATA certified laboratories. **Included in this testing sample holes in the soil should be dug, and protected, and samples of the air inside tested to ensue fugitive methane rising from the underground drilling and Fracking and other toxins are not leaking from the depths of the earth. AGL should not be permitted, or prove beyond doubt to blame leaking CSG as coming from mining by coal mining companies in the past. CSG leakage or fugitive CSG should be put at the feet of AGL, they are holey responsible and should be take full responsibility and fix the problem.**

- It should be always remembered that coal has been mined for decades under all the areas proposed by AGL, and there are areas subjected to collapse and slippage and subsidence. CSG mining could breach a mine and release CSG into the mine, and if Fracking is used, could form fractures in the earth leading to fugitive leakage, through cracks in the earth. This could cause gas explosions in disused coal mines. A number of areas are subjected to being slip or subsidence areas, which does not seem to be taken into account. The earth in this area is also subjected to minor earthquakes, and movement, which should be considered.

- Self monitoring should be prohibited, only by properly appointed independent monitoring.

- Consultants should be at arms length, and truly independent with no subcontracting to other parties.

- Full health effects should be established before commencement.

- At a recent meeting of the Scenic Hills Association, one attendee who lived around the Menangle gas plant noticed bubbles coming from the Nepean River. **This should be immediately investigated.**

Once CSG leaks to the surface from the mining operation, control has been lost. The ramifications do not bear thinking. Areas in Queensland are leaking CSG due to irresponsible mining. Who is to blame? The CGS companies run for cover. AGL is to take full responsibility for all damage and leakage of CAG they cause as a condition of approval. And they are the only ones concerned with the winning of CSG.

- There should be a 500 metre exclusion zone from any development, and signed posted clearly, and recorded on all relevant maps and development releases maps.

- Disaster procedures should be available, applicable to each site and the nearest residences/businesses briefed and trained in disaster procedures, and signs erected to advise the area is subjected to a possible disaster.

- Steps are to be taken to keep out vandals and graffiti vandals.

- The site is to be made terrorists proof in consultation with specialists from police/AFP/fire authorities/professional anti terrorists' organisations, and State and Federal Governments.

- The residents/businesses/local councils/ utilities/schools/ hospitals/ emergencies services and so on should be fully briefed on all safety and evacuation procedures.

- Mining and gas recovery in flood areas should be clearly marked and disaster procedures developed with hospitals, SES, police, local councils and federal and state authorities.

- Risk management procedures should be developed and published for public scrutiny and comment, on every aspect of this operation, and should be nothing less than other hazardous/dangerous operations and distribution operations like oil refineries, petrol producing plants, and hazardous and dangerous chemical plants and operations.

It is very odd that there seems to be no OH&S procedures in place, signage, disaster plans, evacuation and emergency procedures in evidence regarding the development of a gas field, and production and distribution.

- AGL's operation in Macarthur accounts for about 5% of the state and there is up to 40% available to explore away from towns and cities. If it has to happen, it has to be done correctly, safely, and with public confidence.

Exploring, Drilling, Fracking, Recovery, Refining and Cleaning, Storage, Distribution of a highly inflammable, explosive toxic and polluting product does not make sense by any measure on a Gas Field in a developing city of 300,000 people.

- **There has been a great deal of publicity given regarding the effects of CSG on the area of TARA about 159kms west of Toowoomba in Queensland on residents in a residential development in a Gas Field. A resident Debbie Orr and her children are suffering the effects of fugitive, and leaking CSG from CSG miners. She and her family are being totally ignored by the CSG industry and the Authorities. We would respectfully suggest that your committee visit this area of CSG mining at its most irresponsible, and ask that a condition of approval of all AGL's CSG activities have sufficient expertise in this project to effectively stop such terrible consequences of how not to mine for CSG. Perhaps the committee could also consider the CSG gas bubbling out of the Condamine River.**

- The issue of millions of litres of liquid waste which comes during drilling has to be disposed of, it seems usually into plastic lined excavated 'basins', for shipment to some other location. A practice used is allowing the water in the basin to evaporate. However, the composition of the waste water contains much more than water and salt, and can include BTX and other chemicals from the well and other chemicals which are volatile which drift into the air we breathe. Additionally, there are substances available from water treatment organisations; NATA approved, who could provide expert advice on the clean disposal and clarification of this waste water. Effective disposal is a very real issue for CSG industry, must be addressed by both the Committee and the CSG miner, with particular reference to salt and where the liquid is disposed. This aspect should be a major consideration of your deliberations.

- The dams' catchment areas for the Warragamba dam and others like Avon, Nepean, Cataract and Cordeaux dams must be protected from CSG mining, whether vertical, angled or horizontal, the problems discussed above still apply, and any errors will still have the potential for disasters, on the catchment areas, as this problem can affect our drinking water.

NEWS FLASH!!!!!! Friday December 14 2011, The Daily Telegraph, p37 'Gas Drilling Plan Revived - Drinking Water Sites Targeted'. Places controlled by the Sydney Catchment Authority, where it is illegal to even walk, has been approved for CSG drilling where drilling rigs, rig operators, and the whole box and dice roam around the catchment area at will, day and/or night, performing their tasks. But if this contributor to the debate takes a walk in the area for sight seeing and appreciation of the country side, I get booked for trespassing. What a mess this is becoming. I will bet that AGL's Christmas came early this year. Copy enclosed.

- Methane is a very severe greenhouse gas, is toxic and highly inflammable and explosive. As this gas leaks into the atmosphere, as a greenhouse gas and a pollutant, shouldn't this gas attract a carbon equivalent tax, similar to methane generated on public tips. This industry should be taxed as a carbon dioxide equivalent emitter to cover the amount of fugitive methane it emits/leaks during all operations from the well to the consumer and the customers overseas. The whole process, from well to end user should be considered

- A gas well erupted at Elderslie 2-3 years ago, an accident - a similar one erupted in 2011 at Menangle. How many of these accidents have been occurring, or other accidents but not reported. Where else is methane bubbling into the Nepean river, not observed and not reported.

- We have made reference to **Senate Committee Report - Rural Affairs and Transport reference Committee, Management of the Murray Darling Basin - Interim report: the impact of mining coal seam gas on the management of the Murray Darling Basin. November 2011, and General Purpose Standing Committee No 5 Coal Seam Gas - ordered to be printed 1 May 2012 to assist us in our presentation. As well, websites on Google and Wikipedia have been explored and noted.**

- Should any further information become available, we will let the committee know in writing.

- It is our wish that the Committee overseeing this Mining and Industry Project Number 09_0048 has our permission to use this report fully except only our names and address and phone number must be deleted when put on your website, and in fairness, AGL can have our full submission provided they agree to keep our names, address and phone number confidential. In order to prevent any misunderstanding please feel free to contact us by phone or letter for clarification.



The Hon Chris Hartcher
Minister for Resources and Energy
Special Minister of State
Minister for the Central Coast

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 21 July 2011

**NSW GOVT HAS LISTENED AND ACTED:
TOUGH NEW CONDITIONS FOR COAL & COAL SEAM GAS**

The NSW Government is introducing tough new rules for coal and coal seam gas exploration and mining which will see a ban on the use of toxic chemicals, greater public consultation, stronger environmental requirements and an extension of the moratorium on 'fracking' until the end of the year, Minister for Resources and Energy Chris Hartcher announced today.

Mr Hartcher said the 60-day moratorium period, which ends on Saturday, has allowed for the development of new provisions which will apply to all new coal and coal seam gas licence applications following consultation with stakeholders.

"During our consultation period, the community expressed a number of concerns and we've listened. Now we're acting by introducing these tougher conditions on coal and coal seam gas mining."

In future, all new coal and coal seam gas exploration and mining licence applications will be subject to new rules:

- A ban on the use of BTEX chemicals (benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylenes) as additives during coal seam gas drilling. The Government's Stakeholder Reference Group is reviewing this process;
- An extended moratorium until 31 December 2011 on the use of hydraulic fracturing or 'fracking' during coal seam gas drilling;
- A regulation that requires extraction of more than 3 megalitres per year from groundwater sources to hold a water access licence;
- A ban on the use of evaporation ponds relating to coal seam gas; and
- New public consultation guidelines to increase transparency and accountability to be finalised in consultation with the Government's Stakeholder Reference Group.

"We understand there needs to be a balance between agricultural land and mining and we're determined to get that balance right," Mr Hartcher said.

"That is why we will require all new applications for mining or petroleum projects which have the potential to affect agricultural resources or industries to submit an Agriculture Impact Statement.

"It is also why we are identifying strategic agricultural lands and through the Strategic Regional Land Use policy process, ensuring that provisions are included to maintain the significant value of these lands."

Mr Hartcher said the consultative process allowed communities to express a number of concerns about exploration and mining for coal and coal seam gas.

"Concerns were raised about certain practices which appear to be commonplace overseas and in other states.

"Though many of these practices are not widely used in NSW, our Government has moved quickly to ensure they do not become standard practice for industry in NSW.

"Communities can be assured they've got a receptive ear in the NSW Government," Mr Hartcher said.

The NSW Government is currently developing a new online resource to provide details of licence approval and conditions documents.

"These communities cannot be expected to come to an informed conclusion about exploration and mining activities unless they have access to accurate scientific facts and information.

"The level of public access we will be providing is unprecedented. It's only fair that communities have access to as much information surrounding the approvals and conditions process as possible," Mr Hartcher said.

Stricter protocols for the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) process are also being developed.

The new conditions will be applied to all coal and coal seam gas applications referred to the Division of Resources and Energy. Any obligations applicants have under new and existing planning laws where their project is also subject to State Development assessment by the Department of Planning will remain in place.

ENDS



The Hon Chris Hartcher
Minister for Resources and Energy
Special Minister of State
Minister for the Central Coast

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 6 March 2012

TOUGHER CONTROLS ON CSG

Minister for Resources and Energy, Chris Hartcher today released a draft Code of Practice for CSG explorers and new Community Consultation Guidelines as part of a suite of tough controls regulating the industry under the NSW Government's Strategic Lands package.

The draft Code will be released for public comment for a period of eight weeks to allow the community and stakeholders to have a say.

"The NSW Government has introduced stringent controls to address community concerns about environmental standards for coal seam gas exploration and production," Mr Hartcher said.

"The Code of Practice is a landmark requirement that will apply to licence holders to ensure strong standards are set for the CSG industry during the exploration stage.

"The Code sets minimum standards of conduct expected of licence holders and once implemented, the Government expects the industry to comply fully."

The Code of Practice also establishes a best practice framework covering community relations, landholder involvement and the use and protection of water resources, and requires:

- Licence holders to make immediate contact with landholders, both in writing and in person
- Licence holders to have an Access Arrangement with all landholders on whose land they will be exploring
- Licence holders to be willing to reimburse all reasonable legal costs to allow landholders to engage a solicitor to review any proposed agreement
- Compensation to be paid to offset any inconvenience, noise, and use of land
- Explorers to keep landholders informed of progress and variations in exploration activities
- Explorers to rehabilitate discontinued well sites to their previous state or as agreed with the landowner and to a standard acceptable to the Government

All coal seam gas exploration licences will be subject to the Code of Practice which will be included in the explorer's licence conditions.

The Government's new Community Consultation Guidelines work to improve interactions between communities and coal seam gas explorers.

"The NSW Government remains committed to delivering transparency at every stage of the licencing process and ensuring communities have a say," Mr Hartcher said.

"It's important that communities are fully informed of projects in their area – community engagement must be at the forefront of any proposed activity.

"Communities cannot be expected to come to an informed conclusion about proposed exploration activities unless they have both immediate and ongoing access to accurate scientific facts and information."

The new Community Consultation Guidelines require:

- Detailed advertisement of exploration licence applications
- Evidence of effective community consultation
- Annual reporting of community consultation, including how complaints and feedback have been dealt with
- Contact with the General Managers of Local Government Councils within the area of the licence

"The coal seam gas industry in NSW is now subject to the toughest controls in Australia," Mr Hartcher said.

"The NSW Government is doubling fines to ensure companies are held to account for any unauthorised activity during the exploration stage, including damage to private or Crown land.

"We are also reviewing the security bonds currently held by the NSW Government to guarantee there are enough funds to rehabilitate any potential damage to land."

Mr Hartcher said resource industries can and do co-exist with agricultural production and environmental protection.

"Co-existence does, however, require the appropriate management and assessment of exploration and production activities which the Government's Strategic Lands policy works to achieve.

"Producing just six per cent of its gas needs, NSW remains heavily dependent on imported gas supplies for its energy needs sourced primarily from South Australia and Victoria.

"With gas demand in NSW expected to grow strongly by 2016 and with import supplies in decline, domestic production is essential.

"The NSW Government views the strategic management of the State's resources as essential.

"That is why – for the first time in the history of this industry in NSW - the Government is regulating coal seam gas exploration and production to ensure the environment and high value agricultural land are protected," Mr Hartcher said.

Further information is available at www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/regionallanduse

Fight over gas blows up

BRITANNY STACK
STATE POLITICAL REPORTER

A MASSIVE expansion of the state's coal seam gas industry and potentially billions of dollars in revenue is under threat from within the O'Farrell government, with a growing number of Liberal MPs actively opposing the industry.

Three southwestern Sydney MPs at the epicentre of the controversial industry in NSW told *The Sunday Telegraph* they will fight any further expansion in the area.

This follows sustained pressure from their electorates.

Wellondilly MP Jai Rowell, who spoke out against the

industry's work in his electorate in NSW parliament last month, Campbelltown MP Bryan Doyle and Camden MP Chris Patterson have all publicly announced they will oppose any expansion of the industry in Sydney's southwestern suburbs.

The MPs' hardline stance could lead to conflict within a government keen to explore all options for obtaining more revenue for the state.

NSW's coal seam gas deposits have the potential to earn billions in royalties and also keep a lid on gas prices, which are expected to rise.

Andrew Reeves, chairman of the consumer watchdog



Jai Rowell



Bryan Doyle



Chris Patterson

Australian Energy Regulator, believes the wholesale price of gas would at least double in the next five years, adding more than 33 per cent to the average household bill.

But the MPs have been forced to speak against any expansion of operations in the

area because of a barrage of complaints from an unlikely alliance of residents, Greens, activists and farmers.

Many residents fear the risks of mining for gas will not only potentially damage their health but will also hurt the value of their properties.

The most vocal MP has been Mr Doyle, who said he will never allow gas mining or exploration to take place under suburban homes.

"I have called on AGL to withdraw their application completely," he said. "This will be the first incursion into an urban area and it's not appropriate at all."

Mr Doyle, a former police officer, said he had lived in the western NSW town of Broken Hill in the past and said: "Mining and residential communities don't mix".

"I've got no problem with them doing it outside residential areas," Mr Doyle said.

But Planning Minister Brad

Hazzard said it would be "lights out" for NSW families if angry residents of southwest Sydney succeed in blocking coal seam gas exploration.

Accusing environmental lobbyists of spreading "untruths" about proposed drilling underneath homes around Campbelltown, Mr Hazzard said the state's gas supplies would begin running dry as early as 2014 without further development.

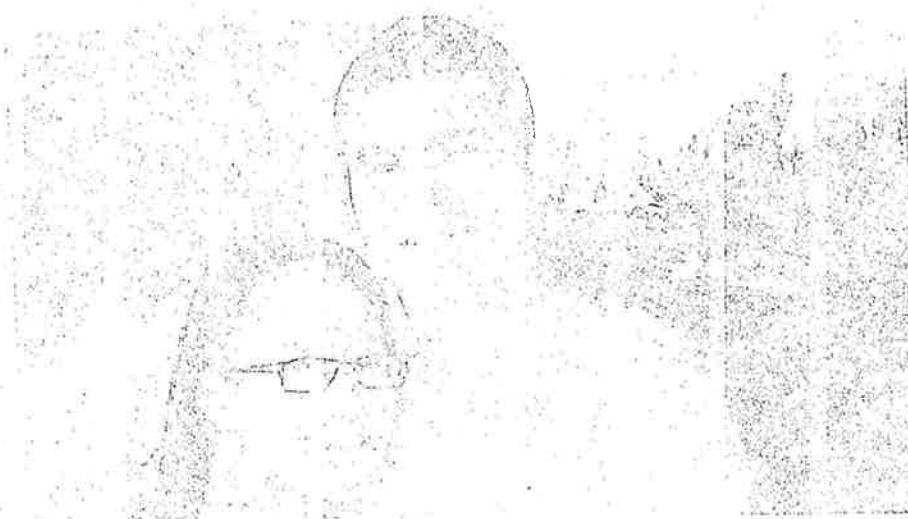
"In NSW we have over 250 years of gas supply in known reserves under the ground and yet to be accessed," Mr Hazzard said. "If we are unable to access gas the lights will go out. It's as simple as that."

Car crash into shop

THREE people have been taken to hospital after a hatchback smashed through the front window of a supermarket in Arncliffe.

Police said they were called to the store on the Princes Highway after an elderly man drove his Toyota Corolla hatchback into the shop at 4.20pm yesterday.

They said the car entered the store from the carpark, smashing through the glass frontage and winding up more



12/12/12

Numbers add up to mass marriage on a perfect date

BRITANNY STACK
LISA CORRIS

FOR bride-to-be Samantha Wong, choosing the "luckiest" wedding date is a complex numbers game.

The 30-year-old pharmacy manager has waited more

of them in a registry office. Even though 12-12-12 falls on a Wednesday, the registry expects it to be the most popular day for non-registry weddings.

Figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics show the most

Gas drilling plan revived

Drinking water sites targeted

MANLY, NEW SOUTH WALES

the full width of the Hawkesbury sandstone geological layer.

Apex must also report any water use to the Sydney Catchment Authority.

The department said Apex would also not be practising hydraulic fracturing or using "BTX" chemicals — benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene — in its drilling program.

However, it recommends against approval of two of the potential boreholes that would be within the new Dharawal National Park, which was announced in March this year.

The final decision sits with the Planning and Assessment Commission due to the high number of objections submitted to the department's investigation. Of the 237 submissions, 233 objected to the proposal, three "raised concerns and made recommendations", and one had no objection.

"The government seems hell bent on developing CSG in the drinking water catchment, regardless of risk or level of community opposition," Stop CSG Illawarra spokeswoman Jess Moore said yesterday. "It flies in the face of Premier's pre-election promise to rule out mining in the catchment."

CONTOVERSIAL plans to drill for coal seam gas in and around one of Sydney's drinking water catchments have been revived.

Apex Energy had let lapse state government approval to drill 16 exploratory CSG boreholes west of the Illawarra escarpment between Sydney and Wollongong.

Eleven of the 16 wells would be within the Murrumbidgee and Woronora River catchment areas — places controlled by the Sydney Catchment Authority and where it is illegal to even walk as a safeguard for the city's drinking water.

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure on Wednesday revealed it has approved Apex being granted another three-year licence for its plans to drill CSG exploratory holes.

It has included what it calls "strict conditions" on how the boreholes are constructed to protect water aquifers, which include concrete casing and caps, and that the "exploration wells must be cased with steel to at least 10 per cent of the total depth of the hole and across

HAWKESBURY NORTH

SAVING THE SUN WITH THE GOVERNMENT

WATER RESOURCES

WATER RESOURCES

WATER RESOURCES

WATER RESOURCES

WATER RESOURCES

WATER RESOURCES

WATER RESOURCES

WATER RESOURCES

WATER RESOURCES

16 December 2012

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
KEARNS 2558

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

Sent by email to plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

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

I object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas in Campbelltown and Camden. The reasons for my objection are stated below.

I do not see why you feel the need to be doing this in a residential area. I have lived in Raby/Kearns for the past 25 years, and we moved here because we liked the area, felt it was a safe place to raise our children.

My children are now grown up, and I have 2 beautiful grandsons, who live in Raby. I would like to see them grow into healthy young men, and not get sick from your precious Coal Seam project.

The Health Dept do not know what impact this will have on public health at this stage. So you think its ok to use Campbelltown residents as guinea pigs? Why don't YOU move into the area and see how your health fares from this. I am sure this would never happen in the wealthier suburbs.

You must think we are a bunch of illiterate hillbillies. I was actually born in the Eastern suburbs, and lived at Bellevue Hill, Bondi and Bronte as a child. Any fracking going on there ? I don't think so !!

And what about the residents of Tara QLD ? They have persistent rashes, nausea, headaches nose bleeds and respiratory problems, and these symptoms show many similarities to symptoms experienced by communities living in gas fields overseas. As I said before, if you feel it is safe to be fracking under and around our homes, YOU come and live here.

I am sorry, but there is just not enough evidence to prove that this is safe to our environment or health, not to mention the value of our properties. Australia has enough gas for 250 years, and it hasn't even been accessed yet. So go drill and frack somewhere else, preferably at the back of Woop Woop, where no residential communities will be affected.

I do not want my name to be made public

Yours sincerely
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] >
To: plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au
Date: 12/18/2012 1:02 pm
Subject: Camden gas project 09_0048

December 17, 2012

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Kearns NSW 2558

Mining and Industry Projects

Department of Planning

GPO Box 39

SYDNEY NSW 2001

Sent by email to plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au
<mailto:plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>

Dear Sir/Madam

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

We object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas in Campbelltown and Camden. The reasons for our objection are stated below.

The pace of development of the CSG industry seems to be outstripping responsible assessment of the environmental and health impacts of the practise. In particular, we are concerned about fugitive emissions and the environmental and health impacts of this.

We have great concern about hydraulic fracturing and the exact composition of the compounds used in this process. It is inevitable that some of this product will remain behind - what impact will this have on the surrounding environment? The proximity of the proposed project to the Sydney Water Catchment should surely be impetus enough to halt this project until we can ascertain the long term effects of the not just the original compounds, but the resultant contaminants from degradation or oxidation of these over time.

The noise and visual pollution of the wells themselves is a distressing prospect. Add to this the increased traffic and number of heavy vehicles which must be associated with a development such as this and surely it is clear that the negatives far outweigh the positives in this proposal - for we residents, at least.

We do not wish our names to be made public, including but not limited to the Department's website or to AGL.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/13/2012 2:48 pm
Subject: Coal Seam Gas

[REDACTED]
Brooklet NSW 2479

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 strongly 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,
[REDACTED]

PLEASE WITHHOLD MY NAME / ADDRESS DETAILS FROM PUBLICATION.

16th December 2012

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Woodbine NSW 2560
Phone: (02)46 26731
[REDACTED]

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Camden Gas Project Stage3, Project Application 09_0048

I strongly object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine coal seam gas in Campbelltown and Camden. The reasons for my objection are stated below.

Introduction

I do **not** wish to be a guinea pig for AGL, the NSW Liberal government, the wealthy or the rest of the state in AGL's plan to mine coal seam gas for huge financial gain. The idea of Campbelltown and Camden residents having to fight to defend their right to live in a clean and safe environment is deplorable, and the height of arrogance. **Independent** research and testing, based on scientific principles, must be done before this project is even considered and to date it has not!

CSG Mining a Technologically - Evolving Industry

I am alarmed that CSG mining is a technologically-evolving Industry whose impacts have **not** been independently and scientifically fully researched and tested. They remain largely unknown. This view is supported by professional organisations and academics in the evidence to the NSW Upper House Senate inquiries into Coal Seam Gas Mining in 2011 and by subsequent research here and overseas.

Self Monitoring by AGL

We have had to rely heavily on industry for much of our information when industry has a vested interest in pursuing projects for financial gain. AGL claims that the Camden Gas Project has been safely operating for 10 years. Yet we understand that the groundwater and air quality have not been adequately monitored, and while AGL has been operating under the Environmental Protection Licence (EPL No.12003), it has been allowed to self-monitor its compliance, self-investigate incidents and self-report such that we do not know true impacts it may have had.

Lack of Independent and Scientific Testing

Research and testing is not *independent* or ethical when the entire process including monitoring is carried out by industry itself. Nor is funded or co-funded research by CSG mining industry. Third party consultants and external laboratories that are engaged and paid for by the industry make this process highly suspicious and non-transparent. The NSW state government has been remiss in allowing this to happen. These lessons should have been learnt with asbestos in Australia and with 'Big Tobacco' in the

USA. The National Water Commission in its Position Statement (3rd December 2010) said that impacts may emerge over a long period of time. I am seriously concerned that the community and taxpayers will bear the costs of any unforeseen problems long after AGL is gone from the area. This is grossly irresponsible, especially considering that AGL will not be held accountable for any damage, danger or ill health.

Impacts on Health and the Environment

The science has not yet been established to determine the possible damage to the environment and our health that may be caused by gas mining, especially under our homes. Related problems such as accidents and subsequent injuries also need to be investigated. Doctors for the Environment Australia claims that health impacts from CSG mining have not been assessed. Preliminary research from Queensland (e.g. by Southern Cross University in Tara) and overseas is deeply concerning, especially when fracking has been used. As at December 2011, 85% of the production wells in the Camden Gas Project had been fracked (evidence from the NSW Upper House Inquiry) with inadequate monitoring of its environmental impacts, especially on water. AGL claims that the use of horizontal wells in the proposed Stage 3 will reduce the need for fracking, however, this is not true as AGL has reserved the right to frack these wells in the future if and when the technology becomes available. The size of the proposed well clusters and any fracking of horizontal wells are both new and untested here. It will therefore be entirely experimental with unknown outcomes on health and the environment. The National Toxics Network says many of the chemicals used in fracking and drilling are not approved for safe usage. The needs and quality of life of a large population of people is being totally overlooked by AGL and the NSW Liberal government. Also the possibility of land subsidence under so many urban properties would be a huge burden for families.

Impacts on Air Quality

The Nature Conservation Council has already determined that the project should not go ahead without having a clear idea on emissions impacts of CSG, especially when AGL has already to using the controversial fracking process at Camden. I am concerned about evidence from Queensland and overseas on air quality and the cumulative impact on AGL's expansion into an area that already experiences unacceptable levels of air pollution. That is, ozone and fine particles associated with respiratory problems (NSW Environmental Protection Authority). AGL's past performance has probably already contributed to this problem. In August this year AGL admitted that it had failed to carry out continuous air monitoring at its Rosalind Park Gas Treatment Plant for three years in breach of its EPL No.12003. So it gives no confidence that it can be relied upon in the future to carry out such testing or even cares about the consequences.

Impacts on Water Quality

Project 09_0048 poses risks to Sydney's water in general and to the South West in particular that have not been adequately assessed. While AGL claims that the *geology of the Sydney Basin is well known*, AGL's rationale for the constant modification of prior stages of the Camden Gas Project seems to contradict this, as does its admission to the Scenic Hills Association that it does not know where the aquifers here run to but *probably Sydney Harbour*. Potential impacts on Sydney Harbour, on Sydney Water Catchment, and AGL's proposal to run its gas gathering pipeline along Sydney's Upper Canal on public land are unacceptable risks to Sydney's water, and are an abuse of public property for the benefit of private investors.

Effects on Land, Land Values and Quality of Life for Affected Residents

As a long term resident of Campbelltown and a rate payer I am deeply concerned and extremely

annoyed that such a project is even being considered in residential areas. Residential areas with dense populations are no place for mining. Allowing mining in areas that are not zoned for heavy industry undermined zoning controls and confidence in the planning process. It creates severe land use conflicts, economic instability, inequality and an unsightly mess. It will disrupt religious communities whose vocations have so far been protected by the Scenic Hills zoning. It will threaten the survival of the entire historic scenic hills by placing undue burden on small rural allotments whose capacity to cope is severely reduced by size. CSG mining is unsightly and unsafe in urban areas with a potential escalation in mining accidents associated with more intense urban activity, the presence of children, and potential for vandalism. Gas leaks and potential explosions where fires burn continuously have not been ruled out. The impact on land and house values as a consequence of CSG mining could be devastating for home owners as has been seen in Queensland and the Hunter Valley. It seems it is very difficult if not impossible to sell land that has been mined for CSG due to a trail of devastation and destruction left by mining companies. For many people the home is their largest asset and is often leveraged to support small businesses. Any devaluation by bank assessors may destroy livelihoods and life savings.

Non-Compliance of AGL with Regulations

In my opinion the NSW Government's new regulations for CSG mining will not ensure its safe operation in Camden and Campbelltown. As the only commercially producing gas field in NSW, the Camden Gas Project has already been operating consent conditions. Yet the NSW Government has not been able to ensure compliance, as evidenced by on-going breaches by AGL of its licence conditions, and the discovery of incidents that might not have been reported were it not for community vigilance, such as the Sugarloaf incident in May 2011 in Menangle that allowed well contents to drift over Sydney's water channel and to nearby Glen Alpine houses. The Adaptive management process allows damage and accidents to occur.

The Process of Assessment

I believe that the process of assessing State Significant Developments is severely flawed and lacks transparency. There seems to be a conflict of interest as members of the Independent Planning Assessment Commission are appointed by the Minister. Brad Hazzard recently showed bias in favour of AGL and absolute contempt for residents of Camden and Campbelltown on national television. He should be stood down for his appalling behavior and lack of impartiality. The Land and Environment Court would have been a more appropriate place to test any government approval of AGL's project. The current process has taken away our democratic right to go to the courts and if the PAC approves this project then we will be proved right. Even if this were a fair process AGL cannot be relied upon to comply with the relevant regulations and the state government allows this to happen. AGL is breaking the law by not following the appropriate regulations and the state government is turning a blind eye.

Gas Production and Associated Risks

AGL will continue to produce about 5% of NSW's gas from the Camden Gas Project according to evidence it gave under oath at the NSW Upper House Inquiry. The risks and potential costs to the community do not justify this, particularly since 150,000+ people already live and work in the immediate affected area, and this is Sydney's south west growth corridor. It is socially, environmentally and economically unjustified, and has no social licence to operate here. Coal seam gas mining is simply not worth the risk. There are potential dangers to the environment and wildlife, to property and homes and to the safety and health of residents from such things methane leakage, water contamination, land subsidence, poisoning of underground water resources and aquifers from the toxic chemicals. It must be obvious to AGL and the NSW Liberal government that Macarthur residents are strongly opposed to mining under their homes due to the potential risks already discussed.

Conventional Gas Mining – Plentiful Supply

Conventional gas mining (such as in Bass Strait) has fewer environmental problems than CSG. BHP has indicated that there is enough conventional gas available to keep the entire east coast supplied almost indefinitely. So why do we need to urgently exploit the very dodgy CSG when we have vast alternatives elsewhere? Is AGL, an extremely wealthy and greedy corporate, setting the agenda for the NSW Liberal government? This project has no benefits for local residents. It is interesting to note that CSG has been banned in France.

Lack of Communication and Consultation with Affected Residents

AGL has failed to adequately communicate and consult with the public on the northern expansion project, and many have found it difficult to acquire specific information pertaining to the project. Residents were not informed of the meetings nor did they receive letters from a letterbox drop. In Campbelltown only one public meeting was held, with the majority of residents not knowing it was on. They have the right to be properly informed and consulted on issues that directly affect them their families, particularly when it comes to their homes. The deadline date for submissions to the PAC is totally unreasonable, being just before Christmas. It seems that AGL and the NSW Liberal government are hoping the majority of residents won't respond.

Feedback from Land Owners

Many land owners who were affected by the initial stages of the Camden Gas Project have given first hand information on their dissatisfaction with the project. They claim to have been given little information on the environmental and health impacts of CSG mining, and to have been coerced into submission, with AGL threatening legal action if land owners didn't co-operate. There was little consensus and harmony. Only those with the funds to do so could fight AGL in court. The AGL project could be likened to the "Erin Brockovich" saga with the wealthy and powerful, benefitting from the poor and unaware. South Western Sydney is quickly becoming a dumping ground for the rich.

Comments on Motivation for and Safety of the Project

The motivation for this project is pure greed and self interest. If CSG extraction is as safe as AGL claims it is then let AGL executives and NSW Liberal politicians test it in their own local areas and back yards. I suspect in the leafy blue ribbon liberal seats of the northern and eastern suburbs of Sydney. Also the NSW Liberal government and AGL should be prepared to give a water tight guarantee that they will be liable for and provide compensation for all damage, destruction, personal losses and ill health by affected residents. Why should AGL have the right to potentially destroy our environment, and then walk away? We wish to preserve our beautiful environment for future generations.

Conclusion

Campbelltown City Council and local federal MP Bryan Doyle strongly oppose AGL's northern expansion project because it is an extremely bad idea. This project requires more thorough independent and scientific testing by people with the appropriate technical and scientific expertise. The PAC needs to demonstrate integrity and accountability in its assessment of this project. Any committee who would recommend a project where processes and materials have not been fully and independently tested is irresponsible.

I do not want my name made public on the Department's website or to AGL.

Yours sincerely,

██████████

From: [REDACTED] >
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/12/2012 9:25 pm
Subject: Don't Sacrifice Greater Western Sydney to Coal Seam Gas

[REDACTED]
GLOUCESTER NSW 2422
PLEASE WITHHOLD MY NAME FROM PUBLICATION

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,
[REDACTED]

December 16, 2012

██████████

██████████

RABY NSW 2566

Sent by email to plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

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

Please find my submission on behalf of my family.

We object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas in Campbelltown and Camden.

We are opposed to application because of the unknown health and environmental impacts of coal seam gas drilling. We believe there needs to be further study before further drilling is permitted. We are particularly concerned that this proposed drilling expansion covers densely populated residential areas.

Due to the unknown nature of CSG drilling and the lack of science on this issue, the impact of such drilling on the residents of these areas could be disastrous, particularly in terms of their health and This view is supported by professional organisations and academics in evidence to the NSW Upper House and Senate Inquiries into Coal Seam Gas Mining in 2011 and by subsequent research here and overseas.

I further note there is no independent scientific information available on the Camden Gas Project.

The National Water Commission in its Position Statement (3rd December 2010) said that impacts may emerge over a long time period. I am deeply concerned that the costs of unforeseen problems will be borne by the community and taxpayers after AGL is long gone from the area. This is grossly irresponsible.

Doctors for the Environment Australia claims that health impacts from CSG mining have not been assessed. Preliminary research from Queensland (e.g. by Southern Cross University in Tara) and overseas is deeply concerning, especially where fracking has been used. As at December 2011, 85% of the production wells in the Camden Gas Project had been fracked (evidence from the NSW Upper House Inquiry) with inadequate monitoring of its impacts on water in particular. AGL claims that the use of horizontal wells in the proposed Stage 3 will reduce the need for fracking, but it seems that this is not entirely true since it has reserved the right to frack these wells in the future if/when the technology becomes available. The size of the proposed well clusters and any fracking of horizontal wells are both new and untested here. It will therefore be entirely experimental with unknown

outcomes on health and property including the possibility of subsidence under so many urban properties.

I am also concerned about evidence from Queensland and overseas on air quality and the cumulative impact of AGL's expansion into an area that already experiences incidents of unacceptable levels of air pollution (ozone and fine particles) associated with respiratory problems (NSW Environmental Protection Authority). AGL's past performance gives no confidence that it has not already contributed to this or that it can be managed in the future, having admitted in August this year that it had not conducted continuous air monitoring at its Rosalind Park Gas Treatment Plant for three years in breach of its EPL No.12003.

I am concerned about the health and environmental impacts of the proposed northern expansion. My family's health and my community's health is of paramount importance. I oppose the expansion on these grounds.

I acknowledge that my name will appear on my submission when publicly exhibited.

I do not want my name made public on the Department's website or to AGL.

Yours sincerely

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

To: Mining and Industry Projects **Email:** plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Sir / Madam,

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

I **strongly object** to AGL's project application 09_0048 to *"mine for coal seam gas (CSG)"* in Campbelltown and Camden areas.

My reasons in brief are as follows:

- ❖ **CSG Mining is an Evolving Technology,**
- ❖ **No "Independent or Scientific Research",**
- ❖ **Health Issues,**
- ❖ **Self Monitoring by AGL,**
- ❖ **Air and Water Quality,**
- ❖ **Environmental Issues,**
- ❖ **Government Regulations,**
- ❖ **Land and House Values,**
- ❖ **Future Costs, and**
- ❖ **Conclusion.**

CSG Mining is an Evolving Technology.

I am concerned that the CSG mining is a technologically -evolving industry whose impacts has not been independently or scientifically researched, and remains largely unknown. This view is supported by professional organisations and academics in evidence to the NSW Upper House and Senate Inquiries into Coal Seam Gas Mining in 2011, and by subsequent research in this country and overseas.

No Independent or Scientific Research.

We have had to rely on the industry for much of our information when the industry has a vested interest in the final outcome.

Third party consultants and external laboratories' that are engaged and **"paid for"** by the industry are **not independent!!**

Nor is any funded or co-funded research by the CSG mining industry.

Health Issues.

Also doctors for the “Environment Australia” claim that health impacts from CSG mining have not yet been assessed.

The lessons that have been learnt with “**asbestos**” in Australia, and with “**Big Tobacco**” in the USA, these are indications and results from being able to “self monitor” any issues that may arise – it just does not work – there are too many vested interests for the Mining Sector to be impartial – they just wish to “make huge profits”!!

Self Monitoring by AGL.

It claims that the Camden Gas Project has been safely operating for 10 years.

Yet we understand the impacts on groundwater and air quality have not been adequately monitored, and while AGL has been operating under an Environmental Protection Licence (EPL No. 12003), it has been allowed to self-monitor its compliance, self-investigate and self-report such that we do not know what true impacts it may have had.

Air and Water Quality.

The National Water Commission in its Position Statement (3rd December 2012) said that impacts may emerge over a long time period.

Look at the preliminary research from Queensland by the Southern Cross University in Tara, and overseas, which is all deeply concerning, especially where fracking has been used.

Look at the land values in that area now; no one can sell their property, as no one wants to buy into that area!!

Plus, what about our water resources, no one knows where the aquifers run to or from, so do AGL wish to destroy these as well??

Then there is the proposal that AGL run their “gas pipes” beside the fresh water canal, as it would suit AGL, that way they do not have to purchase any land, or pay royalties to locate their pipes, on some one's property. This is another example of their greed.

Environmental Issues.

AGL's past performance on these issues has been very poor, exactly as you would expect from a company that can self monitor and investigate environmental issues, where they can “cover up any of their mistakes”, even though they are contravening, and are in breach of its EPL No. 12003 licence.

This of course will only lead to more cover ups, if they are not taken to account for these issues already perpetuated.

Government Regulations.

NSW Governments new regulations for CSG mining will not ensure a safe operation of this type of mining, it can be seen that AGL has little consideration for any Government regulations, it is ignoring governmental Environmental Licence regulations, it appears to be a case of, "money talks", those with the money do as they please, and the rest of us suffer!!

It appears this Government has no "back bone", or are being "paid off" by AGL, so that AGL can do as they please.

As for the NSW minister, Brad Hazzard, who trivialised this mining technique, and our concerns, it just goes to prove that you do not need any qualifications to enter government as a minister, just a "enough gullible people to believe your lies to vote you into office"!!

It is unfortunate that I voted for the Liberal party in the last election, in both the State and Local government elections, so I am now getting paid back for believing the lies!!

Land and House Values.

For those of us living in this area, and a growing area at that, with a lot of new land releases occurring at this present time, with no information being supplied to those new home owners, this is going to greatly impact on our major family asset, our home and land!!

I could easily bring this to the basic level of, "would you like this to occur where you currently reside, would you like the implications to you, your family and neighbours".

I think the answer would be **NO !!**

I have asked that question, and I ask that you look to your conscience, to see what is fair and equitable to the general public, those persons living in this area, **not what will make AGL richer !!**

Future Costs.

I am also very concerned that the costs of any **unforeseen problems** will have to be borne by the community, which is me, a rate payer, all the other rate payers, and all of the taxpayers after AGL are long gone from this area!!

This is, and will be grossly irresponsible, and it is something that both the Federal and State Governments need to address **NOW**, all political parties need to be cognizant of this possibility.

Conclusion.

It is evident that **ALL** Government parties chase the "dollar being offered by the big companies", at the expense of the general public, the tax and rate payers; we are on the bottom of the pile where any concerns with "quality of life" are concerned.

This is not a project to benefit the general public; it is just another way in which AGL can make more money.

From all reports that I have heard, this "coal gas" is a very small percentage of a natural resource, and will probably be sold overseas, as there is enough natural gas available in Australia currently, and for the future.

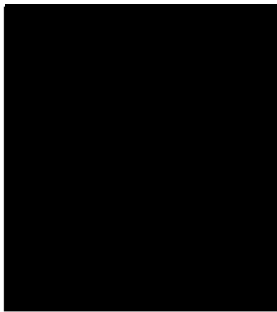
This project needs to be stopped, it is not needed, the implications of using untried methods of mining is beyond belief, we do not wish to be the "guinea pigs", we do not wish to lose any value on our house and land, just look at what happened in Queensland!!

And AGL is no different!!

All AGL want is more money, for their executives and share holders, at the expense of the general public.

Note: I do not wish to have my name made public on the Department's Website or to AGL.

Regards,



Woodbine NSW 2560

16th December 2012

12/12/12

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Varroville NSW 2566

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

Dear Sir/Madam

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

We strongly object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to construct a coal seam gas plant in the area of Campbelltown and Camden. The reasons for our objection are stated below.

It is of my concern that within the area that you are seeking to initiate your proposal to implement a Coal Seam Gas expansion within the Camden area, where the population is distinctly against Coal Seam Gas mining. As a collective, the community shows explicit concern about the areas that you will commence mining. We possess strong emotions regarding your actions and the majority has deep worry for the effects that will inevitably befall this community. Upon several sites where CSG mining remains, as stated by residents in the vicinity of these sites, pose a substantial risk to the surroundings in terms of threats to water supply, wildlife, commercial crops and forestry.

It has been both stated and witnessed that from several accounts, from communities where CSG is occurring, the population experiences a degradation of land and property, utilized for commercial agriculture. The land in which CSG is taking place, the value of property decreases. The purity of water is affected when CSG is occurring; placing a risk on the population's well being therefore jeopardizing our access to clean, unpolluted drinking water.

In the area where you are also committing to place CSG, there is the risk of flora and fauna becoming endangered. There are native animals in the area that face risks from CSG, as they will struggle to find proper drinking water if CSG was to take place. The flora and fauna is a concern if CSG is occurring. These pose as forceful factors against CSG to take place, as many species of wildlife will become scarce/sparse in our area.

Coinciding with the effects on native wildlife and our environment it is highly likely that the population will also face many health problems. It has been stated from different accounts such as the interviews from 'talk-back' radio station, 2GB, that people do obtain health risks. It has been stated that they have experienced rashes and breathing difficulties, resulting to the hospitalization of these victims of CSG. It brings concern to the population as the benefits of the operation are outweighed to the consequences of CSG e.g. the acquirement of a non-renewable source in expense of the health of human beings.

We feel that due to the effects that will occur to our environment, wildlife and health creates concern amongst our population in the area that you are operating in. We desire that you cease you plan for CSG as it possesses hazardous effects to these factors of our community. It can be specifies that no one will be benefiting from Coal Seam Gas Mining if this will occur.

We wish to remain anonymous concerning our identity with the public on your Website. We feel that it is appropriate that you respect our privacy and that we represent a community opinion.

Yours sincerely


From: >
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/14/2012 8:48 pm
Subject: Re: Camden Gas Project Stage 3, Project Application 09_0048

Friday 14th December 2012

Bradbury 2560

Mining and Industry Projects

Department of Planning

GPO Box 39

SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

We object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas in Campbelltown and Camden. The reasons for our objection are stated below.

We have five children under the age of nine they are very precious to us they were all born in Campbelltown and are healthy vibrant little individuals with lots of curiosity for the world they live in.

We are concerned about the impact CSG mining will have on our lives our community and our health.

The negatives for CSG mining outweigh the positives.

We enjoy our clean water our clean air and our safety, don't take these things away from us.

We do not want our names made public on the Department's website or to AGL.

Yours sincerely,

From: >
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/14/2012 8:49 pm
Subject: Re: Camden Gas Project Stage 3, Project Application 09_0048

Friday 14th December 2012

Bradbury 2560

Mining and Industry Projects

Department of Planning

GPO Box 39

SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

I object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas in Campbelltown and Camden. The reasons for my objection are stated below.

I am nine years old I have heard about CSG mining I don't think it's a good thing to be doing. I am concerned about the environment, the earth and our future.

Please think about this issue.

I do not want my name made public on the Department's website or to AGL .

Yours sincerely,

From: >
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/14/2012 8:50 pm
Subject: Re: Camden Gas Project Stage 3, Project Application 09_0048

Friday 14th December 2012

Bradbury 2560

Mining and Industry Projects

Department of Planning

GPO Box 39

SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

I object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas in Campbelltown and Camden. The reasons for my objection are stated below.

I am seven years old CSG mining doesn't sound good to me. Please don't hurt our environment or us. Please stop this from happening.

I do not want my name made public on the Department's website or to AGL.

Yours sincerely,

From: >
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/13/2012 10:31 am
Subject: Don't Sacrifice Greater Western Sydney to Coal Seam Gas

Kariong
NSW 2250

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.

I would like my name and other personal details to be withheld from any and all publications.

Yours sincerely,

From: >
To: plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au
Date: 12/18/2012 3:23 pm
Subject: Don't Sacrifice Greater Western Sydney to Coal Seam Gas

MY ADDRESS: Macquarie Fields, 2564

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.
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- 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,

* Please withhold my name from Department website publication*

From: >
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/17/2012 1:01 pm
Subject: Don't Sacrifice Greater Western Sydney to Coal Seam Gas

Goonellabah
NSW 2480

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.
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 - 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.
- Please with hold my name from publication
Yours sincerely,

From: >
To: plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au
Date: 12/18/2012 2:01 pm
Subject: Don't Sacrifice Greater Western Sydney to Coal Seam Gas

: Surry Hills

Please note I would like my name and address withheld from publication

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.
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- 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,

From: >
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/12/2012 3:01 pm
Subject: Re: Camden Gas Project Stage 3, Project Application 09_0048

12 December 2012

Medway Street

DALTON 2581

Mining and Industry Projects

Department of Planning

GPO Box 39

SYDNEY NSW 2001

Sent by email to plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

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

We object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas in Campbelltown and Camden. The reasons for our objection are stated below.

While we are not living in the affected areas, we do have a number of relatives living in the Camden area, grown-ups ranging in age from 40 to over 70 and including two young children, aged 10 and 2 years

We would like them to be able to live grow up in a clean and friendly environment, not an atmosphere filled with chemicals; an atomosphere that causes many intolerable health problems

It goes without saying that every citizen in this country should be able to live, play and grow up in a friendly environment

Please keep our names private, thank you.

Yours sincerely

From: >
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/12/2012 8:39 pm
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.
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- 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. Please withhold my name from publication!

From: >
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/17/2012 4:26 pm
Subject: Don't Sacrifice Greater Western Sydney to Coal Seam Gas

MY ADDRESS: : Faulconbridge

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.
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 - 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.
- Please withhold my name from publication.

Yours sincerely,

From: >
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/13/2012 7:24 am
Subject: Don't Sacrifice Greater Western Sydney to Coal Seam Gas

MY ADDRESS: Glen Alpine 2560

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.
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- 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.

Please note I would like my name to be withheld from publication.

Yours sincerely,

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

Sent by email to plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

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

I and my family object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas in Campbelltown and Camden. The reasons for [my/our] objection are stated below.

Coal Seam Gas mining is a technologically-evolving industry whose impacts have not been independently and scientifically fully researched and remain largely unknown and yet it seems that the Government is saying to big business you do what you want. You self monitor and let us know if things go wrong. When is government going to learn that this does not happen because the dollar signs light up in the eye's of management of these companies and that is all that the care about, the almighty dollar, and they'll make all the excuses in the world as to why things went wrong but it will not be their fault.

When is Government going to realise is not all about the business world. There must be times when big business takes a back seat for the better good of all.

How many of you would like to have a mine under your house, under your livelihood. How many of the AGL management would like to have what they propose Campbelltown and Camden under their own homes. I bet none. Well if it's not good enough for you or for AGL management then it's not good enough for the rest of us hard working people of the Campbelltown and Camden regions.

You cannot have it both ways and have the region designated as a growth area and then say but also you'll need to put up with mining under your house. Do you think families would have bought land and built homes at Oran Park Town, or Gregory Hills or Edmondson Park if they knew that. These families have invested in the area and this is how it is proposed that they'll be thanked.

Money is not the be all and end all of this world, there are times when the people must be listened to and a decision made for the greater good of all and not just businesses.

I implore you not give the go ahead to this project.

I do not wish my name to be made public or to be given to AGL

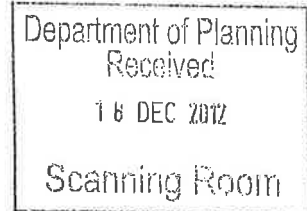
Yours sincerely



PCU040128

12th December 2012

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



Dear Sir/Madam,

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

We object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas in Campbelltown and Camden. The reasons for our objection are stated below.

Coal Seam Gas exploration or then said mining should not be allowed to infringe on the lives of people.

The proposed Stage 3 project is in densely populated suburbs not to mention that the Campbelltown City Council had the foresight to make this area

Coal bed methane gas (CBM or CSG coal seam gas), as the name suggests, is a by-product of the geological processes that created our waste deposits of coal. Its original name was firedamp because it is the most dangerous of the explosive mine gases.¹

Following up of correspondence sent July 2011, (copy attached).

Mr Pearson's letter stated that 22 submissions were received in relation to the proposed expansion of the Camden Gas Project exhibited between 26th October 2010 and 7th December 2010, the public cannot object if they don't know what is happening.

As stated in previous correspondence we were only made aware of the proposed expansion on the 24th June 2011, when two Nuns went door knocking in Chasselas Avenue Eschol Park informing people of a Public Forum the following day.

Over past year we have received two letter box drop offs in our street but our son who lives in Chasselas Avenue and is approximately 150 metres away from proposed CU29 well did not receive anything.

As you can see from the flyer it is very plain and with very little information informing the reader of exactly who will be affected by the expansion.

Ordinary hardworking families that we know, work up to 50 hours per week not including travel time to and from work. People just do not have the time or resources to read hundreds of pages of amendments and duplications just to have a peaceful life.

¹ As defined in Wikipedia, free on line dictionary

Please find attached a signed petition that was left our local newsagent for two weeks with **ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY** signatures.

Once people were made aware of the expansion they willingly put pen to paper.

The rapid development of CSG in Queensland should be used as a marker especially the very serious impact of the Air, Land, and Water and more recently of the concerns of Tara, Mother of five Mrs D Orr who claims that her children are suffering from gas exposure.²

The children complain of headaches, rashes and nose bleeds.

This has been substantiated by another Mother of seven children, Marion Palmer who has taken her children to Doctors with rashes, headaches, nausea and vomiting.

There are a further nineteen families who have experienced the same symptoms.

Dr Christian Rowan from AMA Queensland stated "a number of people live near where CSG exploration is occurring and they are reporting symptoms that are consistent to gas exposure." "There is not enough information to comment of the complaints of rashes, bleeding noses, severe headaches and vomiting from families living on the Tara estate however, eye and throat infections, headaches, nausea, vomiting, dizziness and sometimes heart palpitations and blurred vision were symptoms of a gas exposure."³

Dr Helen Redmond – a physician representing the NSW Branch of the group Doctors for the environment stated "While the cause of these symptoms has not yet been determined, they show many similarities to symptoms experienced by communities living the gas fields overseas." "Hydrocarbon exposure cannot be ruled out as a cause without much more comprehensive investigation."⁴

When people purchased their homes in Tara it was called the "Golden Gates Estate" is now known as the TARA COAL FIELD.

In light of the above and the request by Dr Andrew MacDonald for more information there should be a monitorium until all the facts are out in the open.

2002 – Coals Seam Gas Mining Health Effects

Advised NSW Health will provide submission to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure into possible health effects of CSG mining during the development application process.⁵

3165 - Coals Seam Gas Mining Health Effects⁶

No Answer has been provided to Dr McDonald on question 3165.

² Brisbane Times dated 06/06/12

News.com.au article dated 02/08/12

³ AAP dated 06/07/12

⁴ Sydney Morning Herald dated 17/11/12

⁵ Q&A Legislative Assembly Q:2002

⁶ Q&A Legislative Assembly Q:3165

Please find attached a signed petition that was left our local newsagent for two weeks with signatures.

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When people purchased their homes in Tara it was called the "Golden Gates Estate" is now known as the TARA COAL FIELD.

In light of the above and the request by Dr Andrew MacDonald for more information there should be a moratorium until all the facts are out in the open.

2002 – Coals Seam Gas Mining Health Effects

Advised NSW Health will provide submission to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure into possible health effects of CSG mining during the development application process.⁵

3165 - Coals Seam Gas Mining Health Effects⁶

No Answer has been provided to Dr McDonald on question 3165.

² Brisbane Times dated 06/06/12

News.com.au article dated 02/08/12

³ AAP dated 06/07/12

⁴ Sydney Morning Herald dated 17/11/12

⁵ Q&A Legislative Assembly Q:2002

⁶ Q&A Legislative Assembly Q:3165

Has NSW Health provided a submission?

There is also evidence from a study by researchers at Southern Cross University that methane, carbon dioxide and other gases appear to be leaking up through the soil undetected inside the Tara gas field.⁷

Leaks are uncontrolled when escaping up through rock fissures and soil, so where do they go? Into the atmosphere that people are breathing.

It has been found that people living in communities close to mining are 70% more likely to develop kidney diseases, 64% more likely to develop chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and 30% more likely to have high blood pressure.⁸

For some reason promoters of the coal gas mining prefer to move into undisturbed areas inhabited by small rural communities where they will get little or no objection.

There is no balance of power in this debate - the big business have all the resources and the means and the people that are going to be affected have to have the burden of proof.

As per Mr. Chris Hartcher's parliamentary speech in opposition requested:-

"An inquiry into activities related to gas exploration"

"Balanced against that is the need of 300,000 people on the Central Coast to have access to safe, clean water—and that issue lies at the very heart of this debate."

"We face a serious issue and we are entitled to a better explanation from the Government."⁹

The people of Varroville, Kearns, Raby, Eschol Park, Eagle Vale, Blairmount and Mount Annan also deserve this right.

License holders do not have the right to experiment with our lives.

Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB) was commissioned by AGL Energy Ltd. (AGL) to undertake a Phase 1 groundwater assessment (and hydrogeological conceptual model) for the new coal seam gas (CSG) development area associated with the Camden Gas Project (CGP).

As Parsons Brinckerhoff and AGL Energy Ltd are partners in many projects this should be potentially seen as biased and in the best interest of both parties.

An independent assessor must be appointed to ensure that all of the impacts and assessments have been correctly addressed. There should be no conflict of interest.

There is also a revolving door between personnel in the industry, industry consultants and the regulatory body, with scientific objectivity being lost in the process.

⁷ Sydney Morning Herald dated 14/11/12

⁸ 10 Michael Hendryx and Melissa M Ahern "Relations Between Health Indicators and Residential Proximity to Coal Mining in West Virginia" the American Journal of Public Health, April 2008, Vol 98, No 4.

⁹ Parliamentary Speech Mr. Chris Hartcher June 2005

12th December 2012 The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP said:-

"In the ten years AGL Camden there has been no interference with water."

The 50 page report includes only two small paragraphs about groundwater monitoring, that state that a technical assessment was done **predicting** there would be no impact on groundwater and so they do not monitor groundwater and therefore there is no impact.

It is bit hard to comprehend that matters raised in the Community Consultative Committee meetings count as no interference. Nothing is monitored so nothing has to be reported.

The people that are monitoring it are the establishers of the Gas extraction.

This just doesn't make sense!

AGL cannot give any guarantees as to what damage had been done or will done to the water aquifers.

In 2011 a key river of the Sydney drinking catchment, the Waratah Rivulet, had been contaminated with methane as a result of long wall coal mining cracking riverbed.¹⁰

The Northern Expansion Area of the Camden Gas Project Stage 3 is on Sydney Catchment Authority land, despite the fact this land is meant to be protected to ensure the quality of Sydney's drinking water.¹¹

Mining poses a significant threat our water supply, in terms of pollution and contamination of creeks, rivers and aquifers. Coal seam gas mining also uses and loses enormous amounts of water through subsidence, the dewatering of aquifers and during many aspects of the mining process.

Coal seam gas exploration and extraction is tipped to use around 300 gegalitres of water per year in Australia. The amount for NSW is unknown because there has been no study of the cumulative impact of mining on water. There must be an audit undertaken of the total amount of water used by all mining operations across the state (including forecasted mining operations), as well as the total impact of these mining operations on our water sources.

Up to 19 million litres of water are necessary to fracture each horizontal shale-gas well. The fracturing fluid can contain as much as 57,000 litres of chemicals per well. Although some of the fracturing fluid is recovered after withdrawal, up to 85 per cent of the slurry remains underground.¹²

In the Hunter Valley AGL has been accused of dumping 120,000 litres of dirty, salty, waste water from a test bore into a paddock. Independent tests undertaken at Hunter Water Laboratories showed high salt levels and the presence of some chemicals associated with drilling machinery. AGL responded that this would have no effect on the surrounding country.¹³

¹⁰ <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/water-issues/catchment-gas-leak-as-coalmine-cracks-20110308-1bmo9.html>

¹¹ <http://www.sca.nsw.gov.au/the-catchments/mining-update>

¹² <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/uic/pdfs/hfresearchstudyfs.pdf>

¹³ <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/water-issues/agl-accused-of-dumping-tainted-water-in-hunter-20100908-151co.html>

As per fact sheet prepared by the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association "ground pits (or sumps) are excavated to hold drilling water, but tanks also may be used in some cases. Up to three sumps may be dug with a total capacity of approximately 30 000L for exploration wells, and potentially ten times this amount for production wells. However, some chemicals remain in treated CSG water."

The Queensland Government has forecasted:

Assuming an average salinity of 2500 mg/l, the expected annual production rate of 25 gigalitres (GL) of CSG water in the Surat Basin, will generate 62 500 tonnes of salt per year. Over a 30-year period, this amounts to 1.8 million tonnes of salt. If the industry expands further this volume will increase.¹⁴

Saline water has a relatively high concentration of dissolved salts. Salt is not just "salt" as we know it - sodium chloride (NaCl) - but can be dissolved calcium (Ca²⁺), magnesium (Mg²⁺) sulfate (SO₄²⁻), bicarbonate (HCO₃⁻) and Boron (B).

I refer to Community Consultative Committee AGL, meeting no 15

AGL RGP Site on 23 November 2006 at 5pm

14-6.3

MR – A Mt Gilead resident lodged a complaint with the Department of Planning regarding an observation of saline water leaking into the Menangle Creek. On 6/11/2006 AGL checked their surface facilities, and no tanks or equipment indicated leakage. On 10/11/2006 the EPA came to site to conduct field water tests within Menangle Creek. The test identified that the water was welling out of the ground, and was not caused by AGL. The level of the salt was at 7100 µS/cm which is almost 10 times the level of salt in the river under normal conditions. The EPA confirmed that the water was not a result of any AGL operations.

MR – The EPA reported the results to the Department of Natural Resources, and any further investigations will be conducted by them.

DH – Where was this particular area in relation to AGL activity?

AC – Approx 70m downstream of our nearest well.

I refer to Community Consultative Committee AGL, meeting no 27:-

25 November 2010 at 5.30pm

27-6.7

MR – From the surface the well paths can be horizontal in multiple ways. There is no subsidence, and no effect on the surface infrastructure.

JK - Have you looked at the natural springs?

MR – We had to do a hydrological study review in the past, and the Hawkesbury is a fresh water aquifer which is a shallow one at 80-100m down, and we drill at over 700m vertical depth.

JK - It won't affect any water?

MR – Correct.

JK – Can we have that in writing?

MR – I can't put that in writing.

JK - Why don't you?

MR – There are no guarantees. We know where the water is, and we know where the aquifers are from our studies. I can show you in today's presentation how the process works.

I refer to Community Consultative Committee AGL, meeting no 28

10 March 2011 at 5.35pm

28-4.1

AC – We don't monitor all ground water levels, we monitor the main beneficial use aquifers which are approximately 120m underground.

SH – What about surface monitoring?

NR – We don't touch surface water.

¹⁴ <http://www.dip.qld.gov.au/statewide-planning/queensland-coal-seam-gas-water-management-policy.html>

AC – We have exclusion zones of 20-40m from creeks, so if there was a spill no ground water would be affected as the spill would be contained before entering a surface water body.
JK – It's not just ground water, surface water should also be monitored.

12th December 2012 The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP said:-

"We have upped the fines."

It is bit hard to fine mining companies when they are self-monitored, they need to be strictly scrutinised.

12th December 2012 The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP said:-

"The State can't afford the compensation to license holders."

Is the compensation worth more than the health and detriment of the constituents, the Government was elected by the people for the people not to let greedy companies destroy our land.

Where is the money going to come from to support the community in regards to future health issues?

The NSW Government is hereby put on notice that health issues to residents in Campbelltown and Camden will be a direct result of Government neglect by failing to put health assessments first over the recovery tax benefits.

The NSW Government has a duty care and therefore, can and will be liable for legal action being taken against the Government by affected residents suffering health issues and for the devaluation of the homes and land once the coal seam gas infects our community.

This is the James Hardy of the 21st century.

12th December 2012 The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP said:-

"We want to open and transparent"

Have the new residents of Catherine Fields, Leppington and Gregory Hills been made aware that they may have purchased their new dream home/land and are potentially sitting on an abandoned well?

AGL being the self-regulator have no requirements to let the Council know where the abandoned and plugged wells are!

I refer to Community Consultative Committee AGL, meeting no 12

23 FEBRUARY 2006

11-9.1

Plug and abandon of 7 of the 10 existing Johndilo wells will take place due to poor output.

DG – When plugging and abandoning a well does the cement go to the surface?

MR – The pipe is filled with cement to one metre below surface and with a steel plate put on top, before being covered with 1 metre of soil. Any plug and abandoned wells are registered with Dial Before You Dig and with the Department of Primary Industries. The wells are not registered on the land title.

PH – Concerned about how many people would do a dial before you dig in a rural area.

MM – Would the council have any record of where wells are located?

PH – No record kept by the council.

AGL don't have to let the Fire Brigade know for 10 – 15 minutes if there is a fire in/near a well. How is this in the best interest of public safety?

I refer to Community Consultative Committee AGL, meeting no 14

17 August 2006 at 5pm

14-6.4

MR – No complaints have been received since last CCC meeting.

DH - Have there been any fire services complaints when the flare is on. The brigades have come to site.

MR – There has been a recommendation to have a flashing light, so that when people are driving by they make the assumption that the brigade is already there. We are looking at calling a central dispatch number to inform '000' as we have 10-15 minutes before pressure builds up to release gas to the flare. Has been noted and will be done.

DH – What about an automatic button?

MR – We have adopted in the procedure that we will notify them. We have 10-15 minutes to call them and advise the situation so they don't have to worry.

AC – All local brigades have been to site, and are aware of the circumstances.

12th December 2012 The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP said:-

"99% of fracking is sand and water the other 1% is whole range of diluted chemicals."

The diluted 1% of chemicals is a mixture of chemicals that in some cases used in small amounts probably do no damage at all, but how many gigalitres of water are required for each well?

So, this 1% has now grown significantly.

The burden of proof should be worn by AGL not for our communities to wait for years to find out the impacts.

We need to know exactly what chemicals are used BEFORE the drilling process not during or after.

If AGL cannot conclusively state what chemicals they use then should not be drilling this includes their exploration wells because AGL don't divulge this information.

I refer to Community Consultative Committee AGL, meeting no 28

10 March 2011

28-4.1

MH – (Refer previous minutes 27-6.7, Slide 12) Section 75J of the Sartor approval.

AC – When you refer back to the environmental assessment with regards to fracking, it describes and talks about water and sand as a slurry. This makes up a fair portion of the slurry used. It is not until we drill a well that we can build a frac programme, tender to the frac companies, review the geology and get a programme together which include details of any chemicals to be used. Our conditions are such that we aren't required to give DII further information on chemicals used.

MH – Are the landowners involved in that?

AC – We brief them on the fracture stimulation activities being undertaken but we don't discuss finer details of the fracture stimulation activities such as what chemicals are being used. We haven't been required to provide that level of information to date.

JK – Sand and water doesn't mean sand and water. What is the level below that?

AC – We can't say exactly what chemicals, if any, are going to be used to fracture stimulate a well as we don't know until we assess the geology following drilling.

12th December 2012 The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP said:-

"Licenses were granted by the former Government that should not have been granted."

If the Government knows that they should not have been granted then the Government should not have renewed new licenses for exploration without health and water assessments being correctly carried out.

Coal Seam Gas mining in recent years has moved faster than the regulations that we would expect should be in place to protect farmers, local residents and the environment.

There needs to be as Mr. Chris Hartcher when in opposition requested:-

¹⁵“An inquiry into activities related to gas exploration”

“Balanced against that is the need of 300,000 people on the Central Coast to have access to safe, clean water—and that issue lies at the very heart of this debate.”

The people of Varroville, Kearns, Raby, Eschol Park, Eagle Vale, Blairmount and Mt Annan also deserve this right.

Where are the assessment study on the risk of the potential devaluation of land and homes within the surface and subsurface area of the Camden Gas Project Stage 3 and its impact on owners, their livelihoods and the flow on effect on the local economy?

There must be a thorough investigation of the economic, environmental and social consequences of this developing industry before it is expanded in NSW especially in highly populated area such as Campbelltown NSW.

We do not want our names made public on the Department's website or to AGL

Yours sincerely

¹⁵ Parliamentary Speech Mr. Chris Hartcher June 2005

From:
To: plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au
Date: 12/18/2012 5:50 pm
Subject: Camden Gas Project Stage 3, Project Application 09_0048

10 December 2012

REVESBY NSW 2212
Mining and Industry Projects
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Sent by email to plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au<mailto:plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Dear Sir/Madam

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

I object to AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas in Campbelltown and Camden. The reasons for my objection are stated below.

1. Coal Seam Gas in close proximity to water sources and residences may have unacceptable impacts. There are no conclusive studies clearing CSG of unacceptable short and long term health and safety impacts
 2. Chemicals used in Coal Seam Gas mining may or may not be harmful, or may or may not be catalysed or otherwise synthesised into other harmful chemicals. There are not enough studies done by independent scientific bodies to verify the net outcome of long-term intensive CSG mining
 3. Coal Seam Gas mining has the potential to disrupt tranquil rural and residential areas with noisy trucks and equipment, and also seismic shock
 4. Coal Seam Gas mining has the potential to be railroaded by lucrative profits over the safety of residents
 5. Coal Seam Gas mining has the potential for harmful chemicals and residues to be forced under high pressure and left dormant in the ground, either inert or broken down, and the potential for fissuring, geysering, permeation and leaching, without any way to control the location and concentration of such chemicals. There are no studies conclusively proving the harmlessness of these chemicals
 6. Coal Seam Gas mining close to residential areas puts residents at risk of exposure, breaches and explosions resulting from pipeline ruptures and leaks, even if the mine is not in direct proximity
 7. Allowing the Camden Gas Project to proceed sets a dangerous precedent for the whole of the Sydney Basin, where large corporations may be tempted to exploit the resources further due to the lack of governance and control over the approval process
- In summary, the risks around Coal Seam Gas mining in residential areas has not been quantified and community consultation has not taken place to gauge the response to these risks. Therefore it is unacceptable for the government to contemplate allowing CSG mining to go ahead until sufficient risk identification and mitigation has been carried out to the community's satisfaction and acceptance. I do not wish to make my name made public on the Department's website or to AGL
- Yours sincerely