

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 (3<sup>rd</sup> 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	BENJAMIN JACKSON
Address	10 ANDREWS PL
	ST Helens PK
Signature	
Date	8/01/2013

## **"Sample Submission no. 1 – ALL SUBURBS"**

### **OUR OPPOSITION TO AGL Coal Seam Gas Expansion**

**INSTRUCTIONS** - Use this only as a guide - rewrite in your own words -

- cut and paste - "quote" media reports - **READ DAILY & LOCAL NEWSP.**

**controlled anger is fine** - get your kids researching **AGL and COAL SEAM GAS** -

**writing submissions as well !! You can turn the tone of this sample submission up or down to suit your message.**

**BE EARLY - OUR DEADLINE IS - FRIDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2013**



3  
2  
h

PCU040894

**EMAIL TO:**

**plan\_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au**

**POST TO:**

**THE DIRECTOR, MINING AND INDUSTRY PROJECTS**

**NSW DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, GPO BOX 39, SYDNEY, NSW, 2001**

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

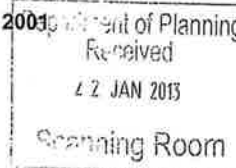
"without prejudice"

**Dear Director of Mining and Industry Projects NSW,**

**Reference :**

**SUBMISSION OPPOSING AGL COAL SEAM GAS (AGL-CSG)  
CAMDEN GAS PROJECT – NORTHERN EXPANSION (Stage 3)**

**Project Application No. 09\_0048**



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**The major reasons why my family opposes the entire AGL Coal Seam Gas Expansion include –**

#### **Threats to Air Quality and health**

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

**Threats to Our Natural Environment - Geology and Hydrology**

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

**Contradictory and Incompatible Land Use Layering**

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

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

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

**Deeply Flawed Community Consultation - Lacking Honesty, Openness and Transparency**

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

**Political Posturing and Decision Making Processes**

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

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

Yours Faithfully

Signature(s).....

Full Name(s).....

Address.....

**OUR DEADLINE IS - FRIDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2013***"write early, write often"****Copy and pass on***

**From:** Adrienne James <adriennejames@hotmail.com>  
**To:** <plan\_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**CC:** Adrienne James <adriennejames@hotmail.com>  
**Date:** 2/6/2013 5:11 pm  
**Subject:** Submission - AGL Coal Seam Gas Camden Gas Project - Northern Expansion Stage 3, Project Application No.09 0048  
**Attachments:** AGL-CSG Submission Feb 2013.pdf; AGL-CSG Submission Feb 2013 Signed.jpg

Dear Sir/Madam, Please refer to the attached submission in reference to AGL Coal Seam Gas Camden Gas Project - Northern Expansion Stage 3, Project Application No.09 0048. Thank you. Kind regards Adrienne James

11 Tarcoola Place  
Ellis Lane  
NSW 2570  
adriennejames@hotmail.com

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2013

The Director, Mining and Industry Projects  
NSW Department of Planning,  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001  
[plan\\_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam

Reference: Submission Opposing AGL Coal Seam Gas (AGL-CSG) Camden Gas Project – Northern Expansion (Stage 3), Project Application No. 09 0048

My husband and I moved to Camden in 2008 and have comfortably settled with our young family in the Macarthur region. We are opposed to the entire AGL-CSG Camden Expansion Proposal as we strongly believe this will have a detrimental effect on the immediate local environment, we question the unknown long term effects of such practices on both the community and the environment, and finally we query the capability and honesty of AGL.

The Macarthur region is a rapidly growing area in Sydney. The air quality in this region is already poor. The introduction of Coal Seam Gas projects in our region, and the toxic fracing practices, will have a detrimental effect on our community. The chemicals used and by-products of this process are highly questionable, and other communities that have experienced fracing practices are very vocal about what they are seeing happening in their local environments, and it is not good. You have to wonder why this practice has to be conducted so close to where people live and work.

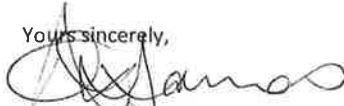
Coal Seam Gas fracing is new to urban Australia. Is it known what are the long-term effects on an urban environment are. It seems incredibly short sighted and risky to introduce this mining procedure into a growing and populated area. Concerns of undetectable gas leaks and uncontrolled emissions are a major concern. Surely the government has a duty of care to ensure such mining practices are safe in the long term. There are so many questions surrounding fracing, so surely this in itself is enough to worry any government of any long term impacts on the environment and its community.

Finally, AGL seem to have not been clear or honest with the community about the process. Due to commercial confidentiality the vast quantity of chemicals used in the fracing process have been undisclosed. So how can we have any confidence in this organisation when they cannot disclose completely what they are doing near our homes, schools and workplaces. Furthermore their experience in this area is new, the community is totally lacking confidence in their current and any future handling of this mining technique.

For the reasons outlined above, my family and I strongly oppose the entire AGL-CSG Camden Expansion Proposal and strongly urge the consenting authorities to do likewise.

Please confirm receipt of this submission.

Yours sincerely,



Adrienne James

On behalf of the James Family

# "Sample Submission no. 1 – ALL SUBURBS"

Prepared by Narellan Action Group

## OUR OPPOSITION TO AGL Coal Seam Gas Expansion

Page 1 of 2

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

**BE EARLY - OUR DEADLINE IS - FRIDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2013**

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

EMAIL TO: [plan\\_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au)

"without prejudice"

POST TO: THE DIRECTOR, MINING AND INDUSTRY PROJECTS

NSW DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, GPO BOX 39, SYDNEY, NSW, 2001

**Dear Director of Mining and Industry Projects NSW,**

Reference : **SUBMISSION OPPOSING AGL COAL SEAM GAS (AGL-CSG)  
CAMDEN GAS PROJECT – NORTHERN EXPANSION (Stage 3)**

**Project Application No. 09\_0048** *2000. From Luxembourg*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Threats to Our Natural Environment - Geology and Hydrology**

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

**Contradictory and Incompatible Land Use Layering**

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

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

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

**Deeply Flawed Community Consultation - Lacking Honesty, Openness and Transparency**

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

**Political Posturing and Decision Making Processes**

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

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

Yours Faithfully

Signature(s).....

Full Name(s).....

Address.....

*Elizabeth M. Jones*  
 38 Cottrell Chamber St Kearn. Sydney 2338

**OUR DEADLINE IS - FRIDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2013**

***"write early, write often"***

***Copy and pass on***



①

21-1-13

Dear Director of Mining & Industry Projects NSW

Reference - Submission opposing AGL Coal Seam Gas (AGL-CSG)  
Camden Gas Project - Northern Expansion (stage 3)  
Project Application No. 09-0048

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The major reasons why my family opposes the entire AGL Coal Seam Gas Expansion include -

**Threats to Air Quality and health**

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

#### **Threats to Our Natural Environment - Geology and Hydrology**

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

#### **Contradictory and Incompatible Land Use Layering**

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

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

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

#### **Deeply Flawed Community Consultation - Lacking Honesty, Openness and Transparency**

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

#### **Political Posturing and Decision Making Processes**

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

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

Yours Faithfully

Signature(s).....

Full Name(s).....

Address.....

0421164963  
LORRAINE JEFFREY  
12 EDWARD FONE PLACE - NARELLAN VALE NSW 2567

**From:** Connor Jeppesen <sjeppesen@bigpond.com>  
**To:** <matthew.riley@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**CC:** <assessments@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** 2/8/2013 9:19 am  
**Subject:** Submission Details for Connor Jeppesen (object)

Confidentiality Requested: no

Submitted by a Planner: no

Disclosable Political Donation: no

Name: Connor Jeppesen  
Email: sjeppesen@bigpond.com

Address:  
76 Deepfields Road

Catherine Field, NSW  
2557

Content:  
I am 10 years old. I do not want the environment damaged. I do not want to become sick by bad mining.

IP Address: cpe-124-183-163-229.ins16.ken.bigpond.net.au - 124.183.163.229  
Submission: Online Submission from Connor Jeppesen (object)  
[https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view\\_diary&id=54355](https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view_diary&id=54355)

Submission for Job: #2921 Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion  
[https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view\\_job&id=2921](https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view_job&id=2921)

Site: #41 Camden Gas Field; , Camden/Wollondilly/Campbelltown  
[https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view\\_site&id=41](https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view_site&id=41)

**From:** Sean Jeppesen <sjeppesen@lacmac.com.au>  
**To:** <matthew.riley@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**CC:** <assessments@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** 2/8/2013 9:22 am  
**Subject:** Submission Details for Sean Jeppesen (object)  
**Attachments:** img-130208091105.1.pdf

Confidentiality Requested: no

Submitted by a Planner: no

Disclosable Political Donation: no

Name: Sean Jeppesen  
Email: sjeppesen@lacmac.com.au

Address:  
16 George Street

Parramatta, NSW  
2150

Content:  
See attached submission.

IP Address: cpe-124-183-163-229.lns16.ken.bigpond.net.au - 124.183.163.229  
Submission: Online Submission from Sean Jeppesen (object)  
[https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view\\_diary&id=54359](https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view_diary&id=54359)

Submission for Job: #2921 Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion  
[https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view\\_job&id=2921](https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view_job&id=2921)

Site: #41 Camden Gas Field; , Camden/Wollondilly/Campbelltown  
[https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view\\_site&id=41](https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view_site&id=41)

*Sean M. Jeppesen*

Barrister-at-Law

8 February 2013

The NSW Planning Assessment Commission  
<http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au>

ABN 50 852 361 554  
Lachlan Macquarie Chambers  
16 George Street  
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150  
Tel: 02 9635 1000  
Fax: 02 9891 1989  
DX 28500 Parramatta  
Email: [sjeppesen@bigpond.com.au](mailto:sjeppesen@bigpond.com.au)

Dear Commission Members,

**RE: Camden Gas Project – Stage 3 Northern Expansion**

I refer to the above project currently on exhibition that you are to assess.

I have been a member of the Catherine Field community for over 30 years, residing on a 5 acre property on Deepfields Road; within a 2,500 metres radius of proposed AGL coal seam gas mines under this proposed project. I make this submission however, in relation to the entire proposal; my property and the semi-rural suburb of Catherine Field not the only land and community that will be affected by the project.

It is trite that coal seam gas projects were approved under the former Labor government, and our communities current Liberal politicians have seemingly wiped their hands of the problem; out-sourcing the duty of responsible government to your Commission. It is also trite that expert evidence demonstrates the potential catastrophic effects of coal seam gas mining, and in particular fracking. One need only hear the testimonials provided to Alan Jones on 2GB to hear the tragedies occurring in our rural communities from such mining practices. The applicant AGL cannot guarantee that this project will not include fracking. Approval of this project would result in nothing short of economic, emotional and environmental terrorism. I urge the Commission to reject the proposal forthwith.

To call Catherine Field a sleepy village is an understatement. It is more akin to being in hibernation. Our community has throughout my lifetime consisted of people of varied persuasion, origin and culture. Our community members are respectful of each other's culture, privacy and quiet enjoyment of their land. In this regard they are somewhat reclusive, unless there is trouble afoot. In such times our community bands together as one. Despite our differences we share an affinity with this land. In this regard our community is a model of success of multiculturalism. I assure the Commission, and the applicant, that should this project be approved in Catherine Field and surrounding areas, the hibernating beast will undoubtedly be stirred from its slumber.

Yours faithfully,

*Sean Jeppesen*  
**SEAN M JEPPESEN**

**From:** Stephanie Jeppesen <sjeppesen@bigpond.com>  
**To:** <matthew.riley@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**CC:** <assessments@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** 2/8/2013 9:24 am  
**Subject:** Submission Details for Stephanie Jeppesen (object)

Confidentiality Requested: no

Submitted by a Planner: no

Disclosable Political Donation: no

Name: Stephanie Jeppesen  
Email: sjeppesen@bigpond.com

Address:  
76 Deepfields Road

Catherine Field, NSW  
2557

Content:

I am 7 years old. I have always lived at Catherine Field. I love this area. It has so many wild animals. I would like our environment cared for. I do not want it damaged by mining.

IP Address: cpe-124-183-163-229.ins16.ken.bigpond.net.au - 124.183.163.229

Submission: Online Submission from Stephanie Jeppesen (object)

[https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view\\_diary&id=54361](https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view_diary&id=54361)

Submission for Job: #2921 Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion

[https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view\\_job&id=2921](https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view_job&id=2921)

Site: #41 Camden Gas Field; , Camden/Wollondilly/Campbelltown

[https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view\\_site&id=41](https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view_site&id=41)

**From:** Alisha Johnson <chick-a-dee212@hotmail.com>  
**To:** <plan\_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>, <camden@parliament.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** 1/11/2013 9:43 am  
**Subject:** AGL Coal Seam Gas Expansion

Dear  
Minister Hazzard

REFERENCE: Submission opposing AGL Coal Seam Gas(AGL-CSG)

Camden gas  
project- Northern Expansion (Stage 3)

Project  
Application No. 09\_0048

My mother, my sister and I recently moved to Gregory Hills for the convenient location- being close to UWS Campbelltown where I have transferred from University of Sydney to continue my nursing studies and hopefully enter their medicine program, the local TAFE where my sister plans to complete a certificate 4 and then continue into studying to become a police officer, the fresh air and semi-rural feel where my family and I can go for short drives and enjoy the scenic views, and for the numerous shopping centres such as Narellan Town Centre and the future Oran Park shopping centre. Our decision to build our family home here wasn't just based on that but also because of the growing area and great transport links that are proposed it will increase the value of our home.

I believe that due to the AGL Coal Seam Gas expansion the value of my home will decrease, we were not told when purchasing our land or informed by the council that development was going to be happening. If we had known about this AGL Coal Seam Gas expansion, without a doubt we would have built or bought a home somewhere else. Are you going to reimburse us for the loss of value on our home? This is my first home, I am 20 years old careering for my mother who has a disability, we are paying off our \$270000 home loan off our pensions, we both agreed that in the future our home would more than likely increase in value and therefore we would be financially stable, this would not be the case if the proposed AGL Coal Seam Gas expansion goes ahead.

I am also highly concerned about the health effects in which this project will incur. I have Multiple Sclerosis and also suffer from asthma, every day is difficult for me and if this project goes ahead I along with other people that have asthma will develop respiratory problems. I moved out to this area to get away from pollution and for fresher air, if this AGL Coal Seam Gas expansion there is no doubt in my mind that if the pollution and poor air quality occurs we will have to sell up our decreased-in-value property and move further out, probably out past Camden, although this would also be difficult as I would be moving further away from university, and the hospital where my specialists are located. Also in regards to the health effects, what happens if there is a leak? Are you okay with knowing that people's health will be affected, that the quality of life of people living in these areas will be affected? I have a pool being currently built in my backyard, I don't want to be spending

too much time in my backyard in case there is an undetected leak and I and my family are being poisoned by the toxicity of what is leaking. I also like to go for runs to stay fit and healthy and to make sure that my MS( and asthma)will be kept under control for as long as possible, if this project does go ahead I probably won't be able to go for runs due to the decreased air quality therefore increasing the amount of asthma attacks I will get and also decreasing my overall health because I won't be able to run and keep fit and healthy.

I ask Minister if you could do disapprove the construction of the AGL Coal Seam Gas Expansion in our area, I along with many other people in the area don't want to see our homes decrease in value, I don't want to have to be financially worried for the years to come when I decide to sell, I also would have loved to in the future move out and build a house not far from my current address and raise a family near where my mother lives, but this would defiantly not be happening as I would not want my children to be exposed to the health implications of this project. I don't know where you live, but I bet if you lived in the area we did and faced the same implications we do from this project you too would be against it.

Could you please read this promptly and take into consideration not only my plea but also the other resident's disapprovals and confirm that you have received my family's submission.

Thank you  
kindly

Alisha Johnson,  
Ashley Johnson and Cindy Johnson

34 Butler  
Street Gregory Hills 2557



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 (3<sup>rd</sup> 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 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 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	HARRY TOWNSEND
Address	260 Queen St
	Campbelltown 2560
Signature	[Signature]
Date	27/12/14

**From:** Gary Jones <gazbec\_2@yahoo.com.au>  
**To:** <matthew.riley@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**CC:** <assessments@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** 2/7/2013 12:52 pm  
**Subject:** Submission Details for Gary Jones (object)

Confidentiality Requested: no

Submitted by a Planner: no

Disclosable Political Donation: no

Name: Gary Jones  
Email: gazbec\_2@yahoo.com.au

Address:  
37 Boomerang Crescent

Raby, NSW  
2566

Content:  
NO

This is too close to schools and suburbs

How can this be approved when there is the chance it will be harmful to the community?

Why would the government approve something with even the slightest risk involved?????

Please find an alternative

IP Address: mail.thac.nsw.edu.au - 202.171.162.162  
Submission: Online Submission from Gary Jones (object)  
[https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view\\_diary&id=54148](https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view_diary&id=54148)

Submission for Job: #2921 Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion  
[https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view\\_job&id=2921](https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view_job&id=2921)

Site: #41 Camden Gas Field; , Camden/Wollondilly/Campbelltown  
[https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view\\_site&id=41](https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view_site&id=41)

4<sup>th</sup> February, 2013

5 Haddin Place  
KIRKHAM 2570

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

Dear Director of Mining and Industry Projects of NSW,

**Reference: Submission Opposing AGL Coal Seam Gas (AGL-CSG)  
Camden Gas Project-Northern Expansion (stage 3)  
Project5 Applicatiuon No.09-0048**

Gas exploration under residential housing cannot be allowed. We moved to this area, for what we thought would be a better way of life.

AGL's intentions are very clear in both their 2010 Environmental Assessment at Chapter 4.2 and in the 2012 Main Report at Chapter 3.4 that the **fracing** process will be carried out to release the gas. There has not been enough investigation into the **fracing** process, as to the certainty of the effects on our health, our water supply and our total wellbeing.

It is not up to me, my family, or members of our community to prove AGL's Coal Seam Gas Mining is a serious risk to our local life, health and future. Camden Council, the State Government's statutory authorities, Ministers, Cabinets, Premier and PLANNING ASSESSMENT COMMISSION panel are the ultimate consenting authority, with a **"duty of care"** to all residents of South Western Sydney.

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

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Howard Jones. Cheryl Jones".

Howard Jones

**From:** Jean Jones <jeaniushjones@gmail.com>  
**To:** <plan\_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** 2/7/2013 12:21 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.

Yours sincerely,  
Jean Jones



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 (3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

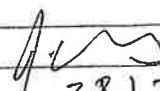
I do not believe that the NSW Government's new regulations for CSG mining will ensure its safe operation here. As the only commercially producing CSG field in NSW, the Camden Gas Project has already been operating under consent conditions. Yet the NSW Government has not been able to ensure compliance, 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	Jenni Jones
Address	68 McDONNELL ST, Raby
Signature	
Date	28.1.2013

**From:** Maureen Jones <gazbec\_2@yahoo.com.au>  
**To:** <matthew.riley@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**CC:** <assessments@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** 2/7/2013 12:30 pm  
**Subject:** Submission Details for Maureen Jones (object)

Confidentiality Requested: no

Submitted by a Planner: no

Disclosable Political Donation: no

Name: Maureen Jones  
Email: gazbec\_2@yahoo.com.au

Address:  
37 Boomerang Crescent

Raby, NSW  
2566

Content:  
NO

IP Address: mail.thac.nsw.edu.au - 202.171.162.162  
Submission: Online Submission from Maureen Jones (object)  
[https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view\\_diary&id=54138](https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view_diary&id=54138)

Submission for Job: #2921 Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion  
[https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view\\_job&id=2921](https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view_job&id=2921)

Site: #41 Camden Gas Field; , Camden/Wollondilly/Campbelltown  
[https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view\\_site&id=41](https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view_site&id=41)



**From:** Michael Jones <gazbec\_2@yahoo.com.au>  
**To:** <matthew.riley@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**CC:** <assessments@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** 2/7/2013 12:32 pm  
**Subject:** Submission Details for Michael Jones (object)

Confidentiality Requested: no

Submitted by a Planner: no

Disclosable Political Donation: no

Name: Michael Jones  
Email: gazbec\_2@yahoo.com.au

Address:  
37 Boomerang Crescent

Raby, NSW  
2566

Content:  
NO

IP Address: mail.thac.nsw.edu.au - 202.171.162.162  
Submission: Online Submission from Michael Jones (object)  
[https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view\\_diary&id=54140](https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view_diary&id=54140)

Submission for Job: #2921 Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion  
[https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view\\_job&id=2921](https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view_job&id=2921)

Site: #41 Camden Gas Field; , Camden/Wollondilly/Campbelltown  
[https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view\\_site&id=41](https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view_site&id=41)

**From:** Rebecca Jones <gazbec\_2@yahoo.com.au>  
**To:** <matthew.riley@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**CC:** <assessments@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** 2/7/2013 12:44 pm  
**Subject:** Submission Details for Rebecca Jones (object)

Confidentiality Requested: no

Submitted by a Planner: no

Disclosable Political Donation: no

Name: Rebecca Jones  
Email: gazbec\_2@yahoo.com.au

Address:  
37 Boomerang Crescent

Raby, NSW  
2566

Content:  
NO

This is too close to schools and suburbs

How can this be approved when there is the chance it will be harmful to the community?

IP Address: mail.thac.nsw.edu.au - 202.171.162.162  
Submission: Online Submission from Rebecca Jones (object)  
[https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view\\_diary&id=54146](https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view_diary&id=54146)

Submission for Job: #2921 Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion  
[https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view\\_job&id=2921](https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view_job&id=2921)

Site: #41 Camden Gas Field; , Camden/Wollondilly/Campbelltown  
[https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view\\_site&id=41](https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view_site&id=41)

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 (3<sup>rd</sup> 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 (c.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	Sheryl Jones
Address	4 Banquet Pl. ROSEMEADOW NSW 2560
Signature	
Date	7/2/2013

**From:** Silvia Gyger <silviajung2000@yahoo.com.au>  
**To:** <plan\_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** 2/8/2013 4:39 pm  
**Subject:** Opposition to AGL coal seam Camden gas project

Dear Director of Mining and Industry Projects NSW

RE: PROJECT APPLICATION NO. 09\_0048

I strongly object to the above project by AGL. We do not want gas fracturing under our houses or surrounding areas, causing great damage to the environment, water and air. It's highly toxic and unsafe. How can a project like this even be considered in a highly built-up and rapidly growing area? It's outrageous.

Please do not allow this, not now and not in the future.

Yours very concerned

Silvia Jung