



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **NSW Government 'head in the sand' at Nepean River over failure to manage AGL's Camden Gas Project (coal seam gas) Stage 2 again – while accepting submissions on Stage 3**

The Scenic Hills Association is calling on the NSW Government to cancel AGL's Petroleum Production Lease (PPL) for Stage 2 of the Camden Gas Project, AND its application for Stage 3 over on-going breaches of its conditions of Planning Consent, PPL and Environment Protection Licence (EPL 12003) relating to water and air monitoring, and the continual failure of the monitoring arms of three government departments to carry out their responsibilities in a proactive way.

This follows the discovery of yet another incident, this time at a newly drilled well (MP25) on the banks of the Nepean River on land at Tabcorp Park Menangle (Harness Racing Club) on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January. MP25 was a modification to Stage 2 of the Camden Gas Project and was the first CSG mining development application approved by the current NSW Government in July 2012 against vehement opposition from Campbelltown City Council. Amongst a number of objections, Council also warned both AGL and the government about the use of a lined pit to contain waste run off from the drill site within 50 metres of the Nepean River on a flood plain. (Refer PAC approval: [http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view\\_job&job\\_id=4989](http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=4989) )

"Given Council's concerns you'd think the EPA or one of the other government monitoring arms would have carried out a spot check at the site when flooding was imminent last Tuesday. Instead it was staff from [Greens MLC] Jeremy Buckingham's office who drove out to the site and discovered the lined pit completely inundated and gas bubbling up in the water across the drill pad site."

"I doubt that we'd have heard anything about this if the Greens hadn't got out there and photographed the site just after the flood peaked," Jacqui Kirkby, spokesperson for the Scenic Hills Association said. "It's now being left to the community to hold this industry to account as the government agencies just aren't up to the job."

"After the Greens raised the alarm, AGL and another industry body (Jemena, owner of Sydney's gas distribution network) were once again allowed to take their own air samples in the presence of the EPA. The EPA had no experts or equipment to verify anything for itself. As for the contents of the lined pit, AGL has admitted to SHA that this ended up in the river but we have no way of knowing for sure what was in it the pit, only that the purpose of the pit was to prevent what has just happened. This is unacceptable to the community."

*"Once again we see that allowing the coal seam gas industry to self-monitor, self-investigate and self-report doesn't work. When will the government come clean and admit that, no matter how much regulation it imposes, it cannot manage this industry."*

Note: Jacqui Kirkby is also a member of the Community Consultative Committee for the Camden Gas Project.

**Authorised by Jacqui Kirkby (0411873999) and Fr. Greg Burke (0421158067) on behalf of the Scenic Hills Association, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2013, [www.scenic hills.org.au](http://www.scenic hills.org.au) .**