



Hunter-Bulga Gas Action Group

The Hunter Bulga Gas Action Group Incorporated
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MEDIA RELEASE.

Sydney Gas to drill through water tables closer to the Singleton township.

Sydney Gas has broken its agreement with the community with the successful approval of a plan to drill a coal seam methane gas core hole closer to the Singleton township in the Hunter Valley.

The application for approval was dealt with in secret by the Government.

In obtaining that approval to drill through the aquifers and water tables to the coal seams below, Sydney Gas has ignored serious environmental concerns, its obligations to consult with the community and the fragile nature of the environment.

Despite a specific Community Consultation Committee having been established and agreed to by all parties for such matters, Sydney Gas did not advise the community or the Committee that it had applied for approval for the drilling.

This application was lodged:

- WITHOUT COMMUNITY CONSULTATION.
- WITHOUT ADVISING THE COMMUNITY THAT IT HAD APPLIED FOR APPROVAL.
- DISHONOURING ITS UNDERTAKING TO NOTIFY THE COMMUNITY AS SOON AS A REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS WAS LODGED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING.
- WITHOUT NOTIFYING THE MINISTERIALLY ESTABLISHED COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE.
- WITHOUT AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.
- WITH A FLAWED REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS.
- RISKING FRESH WATER TABLES.

This cynical move by Sydney Gas comes despite the Community Consultative Committee being established in July by the Minister for Mineral Resources in an attempt to have Sydney Gas change its culture of failing to consult with the community.

Sydney Gas has now treated that Consultative Committee, and the community of Singleton, with contempt and ignore.



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The community sees the risks to the fresh water tables as great, which could affect the Wollombi Brook and possibly the Hunter River, and is furious that it has been sidelined yet again by Sydney Gas.

Sydney Gas continues to fail to consult with the community, either directly or even indirectly through the Community Consultative Committee. The relevant legislation doesn't even require the Government to notify the community until after approval for such activity has been granted.

What is it that Sydney Gas is trying to hide in this secrecy from the community?

Why is it not involving the community as it is required to do?

Contact: Bob Kennedy. Tel: 02 65791360
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