

GAS WATCH 18.

WHAT SORT OF A MESSAGE IS SYDNEY GAS TRYING TO SEND.

Hind Kourouche, the Sydney Gas part time Hunter Valley employee, was at a dinner during the Italian Festival weekend and was speaking to Sally Bowen of Cessnock, who was an invitee to the dinner with local friends.

It seems this Sydney Gas staffer attends many social events, however she is yet to make an appointment to meet with the committee of HB GAG, she is yet to make an appointment to meet with the largest Association in the area, the Broke Fordwich Winegrowers' Association, she is yet to heed our calls for a public meeting, she is yet to arrange to have one Scott Black contact HB GAG, and she is yet to honour undertakings given by her at the "sham" open days held by Sydney Gas last November.

Sally was surprised, however, when Kourouche said to her, in response to Sally saying "these people don't want your gas company here at all":

"Oh, I understand that. Well I'd be the same if it were my community. I'd be out there with banners and I'd be protesting in just the same way." (Hind Kourouche).

What is Sydney Gas trying to say.

In one breath they are saying that it won't affect us at all. In the next breath their Community Manager says she shares the community's concerns.

The only Community Management that has apparently occurred is to make sure the Community is offside.

It appears that, if not Sydney Gas itself, at least one of its staff is at last agreeing with the community stance against the unacceptable proposals of Sydney Gas, and that our objections are properly founded.

To quote E.G. Whitlam, we must "maintain our rage" and take every opportunity of opposing this risk to our valley and this risk to not only our local environment, but the risk also to the broader environment.

A united community stopped Sydney Gas exploration in the Wyong Shire, and we can do it here.

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