GAS WATCH 196.

IT’S NOW OFFICIAL.

AGL WILL IGNORE THE O’FARRELL GOVERNMENT’S CSG EXCLUSION ZONES.

AND WILL CONTINUE EXPLORATORY DRILLING.

“AGL intends to continue with its exploration activities, including drilling a number of core holes on AGL owned property and private land in the Broke and Bulga area, for which approvals are in place.” – so says the Community Relations Manager – Hunter (Alison Crocker – email 26/2/2013).

AGL has elected to completely ignore Premier O’Farrell’s announcements.

You would think that AGL’s methane mining arm would have great difficulty in justifying this behaviour to its Board and its Shareholders.

Premier O’Farrell made it very clear in his recent Press Release that “Critical Industry Clusters identified under the Strategic Regional Land Use Plans – horse breeders and wine producers will also be excluded from CSG activities”.

George Souris, Member for the Upper Hunter has also made it very clear: “There won’t be CSG development where no DA’s have been approved, effectively taking out viticulture and equine CICs and 2km from residential zoning.”

But, notwithstanding all this, AGL announces the continuation of its exploratory drilling program. This will continue to put the groundwater and upper freshwater aquifers at risk, knowing that in the end it will be for nothing. This is arrogance at its highest. Not only is it arrogant, it really says to the community exactly what AGL thinks of it and the environment.

AGL cannot be trusted to continue drilling through the aquifers and into coal seams. Its track record of breaching licence conditions is notorious. AGL should just acknowledge it has made a huge mistake and go away.

The Government should immediately pull AGL into line, instruct them to fill in their drill holes and wells, and supervise the filling of the wells whilst they are being filled with steel and concrete.

FAREWELL
AGL

HUNTER VALLEY PROTECTION ALLIANCE
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26th February, 2013. Contact: Graeme Gibson 65791062.

(Just bye the bye, you will remember yesterday that AGL was contacting select invitees to have a “peek” at their operational sites. We wondered why they used the word “peek”, which is defined as a “quick, furtive look”. Furtive is “attempting to avoid notice or attention, typically because of guilt or a belief that discovery would lead to trouble; secretive.” We suppose that is what AGL really meant. Sounds right.)