AGL sells one Methane Gas Exploration Licence back to the Government, but sits on one right next door to it.

Why won’t AGL assist the community in protecting the Hunter Wine and Wine Tourism Industry.

It’s as simple as abandoning, or selling back to the Government, the vineyard areas of the current Petroleum Exploration Licences.

And there are plenty of reasons why AGL should do the right thing by the Hunter, the environment and its shareholders.

1. AGL announced on 9th March that it “has sold back to the NSW Government” Petroleum Exploration Licence 5 (PEL 5) after deeming it “not to be commercially viable” there being “only 10% of the PEL area available for exploration”.

2. Further AGL explained that AGL has “a fully operational gas plant in Camden, and approvals for exploration of coal seam gas in Gloucester. We will concentrate on delivering value from these assets for our shareholders and for the residents of NSW”. Clearly AGL has taken the view it doesn’t need the Hunter.

3. PEL 5 is immediately adjacent to PEL 267 which, with PEL 4, covers the Hunter vineyard and other areas.

4. AGL informed the Hunter Community Consultative Committee this month that its Hunter Valley assets were “stranded” in that the Broke Fordwich vineyard area of PEL 267 and PEL 4 contains many exclusion areas including the residential exclusion areas around Broke and Bulga, and the nine Critical Industry Clusters within the vineyard area, which Clusters should be made contiguous. See attached map showing current CICs which we are seeking to extend to the whole of the winegrowing region.

5. In addition there are many properties and improvements on land within PEL 267 & PEL 4 which would render them unavailable for exploration. See attached map of legislated buffer zones.

6. It would be surprising if there was 10% of surface area left for coal seam methane exploration in the Broke Fordwich vineyards after the exclusions for dwelling houses, vineyards, orchards, improvements such as dams, cultivated land, Critical Industry Cluster exclusions and residential area exclusions.

7. As a result AGL should be consistent in its abandonment of restricted areas and sell back or abandon the Hunter Project, or at least that part which affects the vineyards, the wine industry and the wine tourism industry of the registered Broke Fordwich winegrowing region.

We have written to AGL requesting that they seriously consider the future of its Hunter project in view of these facts, even without considering the environment, the water and the health of the Hunter.

We have written to the Government in similar terms.

www.huntervalleypreservationalliance.com

14th March, 2015. Contact: Graeme Gibson 0418 239359 OR Stewart Ewen 0408 234773
Figure 8: Constrained Areas

- Roads
- Petroleum Exploration Licence Areas
- AGL Hunter Exploration Area
- ML 1547 (Bulga Coal Lease Area)
- Buffer Zone
- NPWS Reserve
- State Forest

AGL Project Area - Northern Section
- Total area = 2086 Ha
- Available area = 521 Ha

AGL Project Area - Central Section
- Total area = 2351 Ha
- Available area = 375 Ha

AGL Project Area - Southern Section
- Total area = 2623 Ha
- Available area = 1622 Ha