

THE FAULT LINE

Sydney Gas in Wollombi Valley

Sydney Gas made a presentation to Wollombi Chamber of Commerce on Monday the 14th July and confirmed the following

- Sydney Gas are in joint venture with AGL Energy
- If, after drilling the exploratory wells, they decide to go into production they will drill and install as many as 200 to 300 wells extracting methane gas in the Wollombi Valley
- The 200 to 300 wells will be serviced by a compressor station which will take up a land area about the size of Wollombi village or six football fields
- The 200 to 300 wells will each have a pipeline connecting them to the compressor station
- When extracting methane gas they first dewater the coal seam in which the gas is found. The water is saline and can contain heavy metals. There is a serious risk that this water, if not handled correctly, will poison creeks and aquifers. This water must be safely transported away from the site by road tanker. A well at Wyong was producing about 100,000 litres of water per week. It was independently estimated that if a gas field had been developed at Wyong it would have equated to the removal of more than 1 billion litres of water per year resulting in 600 road tanker trips per week. Dewatering gas wells in QLD and overseas has lasted as long as 18 months. Dewatering such volumes of water from coal seams poses a significant risk of depleting groundwater aquifers by migration towards the coal seam voids. Although this has happened elsewhere, Sydney Gas deny it would happen in the Wollombi Valley.
- In order that the methane gas flows from the coal seam, the coal has to be broken down to form fractures for the methane gas to flow through. There have been cases, as close as Stratford north of Newcastle, where the methane gas flows unpredictably through fractures and vents where it shouldn't. There are known risks of the gas venting into houses, essential water supplies, livestock areas and soil, which would then be poisoned causing destruction of vegetation. Methane gas has no odour, is combustible and can be highly explosive.
- Sydney Gas freely admit this is a gamble for their shareholders, but they do not want us to see this terrible risk to the environment of the Wollombi Valley and the inevitable impact their gamble would have on the livelihood, safety, welfare and character of our community. There would be no benefit to any of us except those who choose to hold shares in Sydney Gas and their associate companies.

Do not allow anyone from Sydney Gas, AGL Energy & AJ Lucas onto your land

Do not sign anything they put in front of you



A public meeting will be held at Laguna Hall on the 9th August at 10.00am followed by a sausage sizzle and soup kitchen fundraiser at the Laguna Wine Bar. Invitations are being sent to MP's from State and Federal Parliament, to members of Council, to legal and scientific experts, asking them to show their support by coming along and speaking. The media will be asked along too, so we want a big turnout. Come along and support our fight to stop this scourge of Wollombi Valley and it being turned into an industrial site.

We are making available a DVD showing an investigation into Sydney Gas by Ray Martin on Channel 9's A Current Affair. You can get a copy from Wollombi General Store and The Old Northern Trading Post.

Signs are being printed, which you will be able to obtain at the public meeting on the 9th August.

We are forming an action group called **WAGE** (Wollombi Valley Against Gas Extraction) and a web site is being put together. For the mean time, information is available from Wollombi Valley Online www.wollombi.nsw.au

Any donations to help cover our costs are gratefully accepted



NEWSLETTER 1