
EcoNetwork – Port Stephens Inc

PO Box 97 Nelson Bay 2315.

AGL's Gloucester CSG Project

16th July 2014.

In this submission, EcoNetwork-Port Stephens objects to and deplores proposed changes to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007, that ensures AGL remains exempt from CSG exclusions.

Our objections to the SEPP changes lead us to object to the State Environmental Policy (Mining, Petroleum Productions and Extractive Industries) 2014 on the following grounds:

1. The changes ambiguously specify that the 3km separation from other wells in the same title, are to be measured from the 'geometric' centre of the set of wells rather than from the outer-most well to the next set of wells.
Though a seemingly minor change, it will have significant implications for rural communities in the Gloucester area, allowing AGL the loophole they need to avoid full environmental assessment and consent for their fracking project.
2. It is unacceptable that the Government intends to allow AGL to triple the size of their gas field as a mere modification of an existing consent without a full environmental assessment and a further consent process and with the challenged claim it will only have minimal harm.
3. The proposed amendments to the EP&A Act and its Regulation must be changed to require the Minister or the Director General to seek advice from the Gateway Panel when the applications do not require Gateway or Verification certificates.

Yours sincerely

Darrell Dawson, co-ordinator.

EcoNetwork's Affiliates

National Parks Association (Newcastle Branch) Inc.
Native Animal Trust Fund Inc.
Whale & Dolphin Watch Australia Inc.
Port Stephens Park Residents Association Inc.
Port Stephens Native Flora Gardens Inc.
Pindimar/Bundabah Community Association Inc.
Mambo/Wanda Wetlands Reserves Committee Inc.
Shoal Bay Community Association Inc.
Soldiers Point Community Group Inc.

Hunter Koala Preservation Society Inc.
Tilligerry Habitat Inc.
Salamander Recycling Inc.
Myall Koala & Environmental Support Group
Soldiers Point/Salamander Bay Landcare Group
Destination Port Stephens Inc. (PS Tourism)
Ocean & Coastal Care Initiatives (OCCI) Inc.
North Arm Cove Residents Association Inc.
Wanderer's Retreat Inc.
