

## Media Release

15 August 2014

### **Pouring oil on troubled waters**

On Wednesday Mr Jock Laurie, Land and Water Commissioner, invited Groundswell Gloucester, the Environment Protection Authority, the Office of Coal Seam Gas and other parties to talk at the Gloucester council chambers. Groundswell Gloucester is always interested in gaining more information about the activities of AGL and Government agencies in relation to mining in the valley but the purpose of the meeting proposed for today was unclear.

We believe that a genuine desire to communicate in a frank, complete and timely manner is required of both AGL and agencies. Recently we have seen the advent of the Gloucester Dialogue that purports to do this but it is merely a disguised attempt to aid AGL in buying a social licence for their project.

Previous meetings with OCSG have been marred by vagueness, lack of commitment to real communication and undertakings that were not kept.

The proposed meeting appears to be another attempt to substitute the form for the substance. Instead of constructing more superfluous channels that convey only carefully managed information, supplying real information by any of the many existing methods would be effective.

OCSG could have replied to our correspondence, regarding the legality of the basis for the decision regarding the Waukivory Pilot Project, as promised. OCSG could have agreed to requests from Groundswell to see documents about the process of deciding to frack at Waukivory. Instead, OCSG decided to come and try to pour oil on troubled waters.

Groundswell has recently requested to meet with Ministers Goward and Roberts. We think that it would be appropriate if they responded.

Groundswell Gloucester declined the invitation to meet at Gloucester today.

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