

Media Release

19 August 2014

AGL endorses confrontation in Gloucester

Head of AGL community relations, Julie Delvecchio, has encouraged a pro-mining faction to confront a peaceful vigil in progress at AGL's office in Gloucester.

A post from the 'Gloucester Supports Mining' Facebook page:

I would love to see a hundred fluoro coloured shirts beat these people to there spot one morning, won't have to get up early , but it would be good to see the real people , the workers and there families turn up in force dressed in flouro work clothes to show we to are serious ! I think we would out number them at least 5:1 , I'm only new at this FB but if someone can get it out there I'm in let's make a stand and let our views be heard ,
August 14 at 8:25pm

Julie Delvecchio, who is also a member of the Facebook group, 'liked' the message.

In Ms Delvecchio's AGL community newsletter of 18 August, 2014, she endorses the Facebook page:

Finally, I wanted to highlight a new group of Gloucester residents coming together to support extractive industries.

The Facebook group 'Gloucester supports mining' was created last Tuesday and already has more than 345 members. The driving force behind the group is an understanding of the economic benefits previous resources projects have brought to the community, and creating a space for people to talk about their support for our projects and others like it.

The 'Gloucester Supports Mining' administrator is closely linked with AGL. She has featured on the AGL website and in the Gloucester Advocate with the local AGL community relations manager, also a member of the Facebook page, to promote their working relationship.

The administrator's separate, personal Facebook page featured several posts on August 11 suggesting various aggressive actions against peaceful participants, should they choose to camp in the area. Suggestions ranged from zip-tying participants' fingers together, to throwing horse manure, to burning the tents. It appears that this thread was the basis for the August 12 launch of the AGL-endorsed 'Gloucester Supports Mining' page.

Chair of Groundswell, Julie Lyford, said 'Encouraging aggressive behaviour is a clear indication that AGL is unfit to hold a Petroleum Exploration Licence in Gloucester or elsewhere. AGL's only published survey shows there is just 13% support for CSG in NSW but instead of engaging in real consultation on this, they are deepening the divisions they have already created in our community.'

'AGL broke the law when they failed to disclose political donations made during their application processes. Now AGL's head of community relations is encouraging a pro-mining faction to confront peaceful vigil participants. AGL's behaviour is an issue not just for Gloucester locals, but also for the whole of NSW. What will it take for Minister Roberts to suspend AGL's licence?'

Ends

Supporting documents:

1. Community relations update #74 – where Julie Delvecchio endorses Gloucester Supports Mining Facebook page

<http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=05fd03b35dc666929d2d35388&id=20582c2466&e=fb3c60c177>

2. Articles promoting administrator's close working relationship with AGL:

<http://www.gloucesteradvocate.com.au/story/2129132/sanctuary-offers-safety-for-horses/?cs=435>

http://yoursayagl.com.au/welcome-to-agls-online-community/news_feed/news-10-mar

Further information:

Jenni O'Neill 0432 144 338

Julie Lyford, Chair Groundswell Gloucester - 0424 269 784

www.groundswellgloucester.com