



Media Release

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BTEX CHEMICALS FOUND IN AGL'S WASTE WATER

The Gloucester community was shocked today to learn that toxic BTEX chemicals had been detected in AGL's fracking waste water. AGL has been assuring the community that its processes are safe and do not pose risks to people or the environment. This shows that AGL and government assurances are completely worthless.

Groundswell Gloucester spokesperson, John Watts says:

"This confirms our worst fears and demonstrates yet again that there are significant environmental problems with what AGL is going at Gloucester. This disturbing revelation comes on top of the detection of two fracking chemicals in the groundwater and unexplained changes in groundwater levels during and after fracking.

Minister Roberts now has no choice but to immediately suspend AGL's licence and to place a moratorium on all further CSG activities in the beautiful Gloucester Valley."

Groundswell Gloucester Chair, Julie Lyford says:

"I say to the government and AGL that enough is enough. Please start listening to our community which is justifiably outraged by this disclosure. Coal seam gas extraction cannot be done safely in the Gloucester Valley and all activities should be stopped immediately."

It is also very concerning that it took AGL 12 days to tell the EPA and the community about the BTEX discovery. That is simply not good enough.

When AGL made their announcement today about suspending their Gloucester operations they suggested that there was no evidence of changes in water quality since they started carrying out their fracking operations. That suggestion is quite incorrect because both Tolcide and Borate were detected at raised levels in the adjacent water. Groundswell Gloucester urges AGL and the government to start being open and transparent with the Gloucester community.

Further information:

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