



MEDIA RELEASE

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WHAT DOES IT TAKE FOR MINISTER ROBERTS TO ACT?

The community of Gloucester is asking Minister Roberts to urgently take immediate action on continuing breaches by AGL Energy at its ill-fated coal seam gas (CSG) pilot project in Gloucester.

The Office of Coal Seam Gas, which is part of Minister Robert's department, has in its possession significant new documentation of current and continuing breaches by AGL in relation to the storage of its toxic waste.

AGL had permission to store produced water (toxic coal seam water) as part of its failed Tiedman's irrigation program but this permission expired on 30 April 2015. No new application or plan for dealing with this liquid waste has been announced. Failure to have written approval for storing produced water and failure to have a valid mechanism for disposing of the produced water are clear breaches of AGL's exploration licence. But Minister Roberts has done nothing.

The second contaminated liquid waste which AGL has created is flowback fluid: a mixture of fracking chemicals and toxic coal seam water. AGL has been unable to find any company willing to take this toxic flowback fluid and has still failed to provide any plan for its disposal. This is a further clear breach of its exploration licence and yet Minister Roberts has done nothing.

Meanwhile, AGL is trying to get around its planning incompetence by simply dumping all the toxic fluid in an open dam in a Gloucester cow paddock.

"It seems like every week we are uncovering new breaches by AGL and it's time for Minister Roberts to act. The longer he allows AGL to stumble on, without even a plan in place for dealing with its waste, the worse it looks for the government, for AGL and for the CSG industry. Meanwhile the risks for the Gloucester community and our agricultural industry just get bigger" said Ms Julie Lyford, the Chair of Groundswell Gloucester.

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