



MEDIA RELEASE

20 May 2015

GOVERNMENT AGAIN GIVES AGL THE GREEN LIGHT BY IGNORING CRUCIAL PROBLEMS

Yesterday both the Division of Resources and Energy (DRE) and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) released separate reports into the findings of toxic BTEX chemicals found in water at AGL's Waukivory fracking site.

Both reports demonstrate that naturally occurring toxic BTEX is a significant issue and the EPA media release says that "future management of flowback water will need to consider the presence of BTEX to ensure appropriate handling at a licenced facility."

The use of BTEX has been banned in NSW because of its dangers and the fact that it is found naturally makes it no less dangerous.

Also at the present time AGL has no arrangement in place with any licenced facility capable of dealing with this dangerous material. All AGL can offer is that the toxic waste should be dumped in an open dam in the middle of a Gloucester cow paddock. A proposal that has outraged the community.

Neither report sets out how the BTEX issue should be handled by AGL.

Despite the lack of any solution to deal with BTEX and despite AGL having no one to take and treat its toxic water the DRE under Minister Roberts has told AGL that they can resume operations. This also is an outrage and the community is rightly upset. The Minister and his Department have some tough questions to answer about how this has happened.

Further information:

John Watts 0438 346 544

Julie Lyford, Chair Groundswell Gloucester - 02 6558 1995 / 0424 269 784

www.groundswellgloucester.com