

Media Release

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AGL FINED \$124,000 FOR POLITICAL DONATION BREACHES

AGL was today fined \$124,000.00 plus legal costs for breaches of the political donations laws. AGL had an obligation to disclose political donations when seeking government approval for a number of major projects, including its failed Gloucester CSG project. It failed on 11 occasions to comply with its obligations.

The breaches were brought to light after diligent research by members of the Gloucester community who then complained to the Planning Department which then launched its own investigation.

Groundswell spokesperson John Watts says:

“Groundswell is pleased that AGL has finally been held accountable for these breaches but the case illustrates 3 things:

- 1) That there is no proper auditing by government of compliance with these laws. Without the efforts of the Gloucester community these offences would never have come to light,*
- 2) That companies making political donations should have to disclose the donations to the public as soon as they are made. The present system means that donations might not be made public for up to 18 months. The delay can make a nonsense of the system, and*
- 3) That, although in this case the total of the fines is quite large, the maximum penalty for these offences does not properly reflect their seriousness or take into account the huge amounts of money involved with major projects.”*

Groundswell considers that it's time that all political parties had a serious look at banning all political donations by corporations, particularly those involved in the resource and mining areas.

The court decision can be viewed at:

<https://www.caselaw.nsw.gov.au/decision/5875bc13e4b0e71e17f565dd>

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