



## Media Release

9 April 2014

### RESPONSE TO AGL'S PRESS RELEASE ON TIEDMANS IRRIGATION PROGRAM

Groundswell Gloucester's water resources engineer Jeff Kite advised that an expert soil scientist was consulted to look at AGL's December reports and there were a number of major concerns. He confirmed the view that the irrigation of saline water on crop land at the Tiedman property is not a trial because the program design does not allow for water of different salinities to be compared.

AGL's results indicate that soil salinity has increased over the last 6 months in the top 60cm of soil. This increase is to be expected because adding salt to the type of soil at the Tiedman site will result in salt accumulating over time in the soil. It does not matter what the salt concentration in the water is because it does not get leached out; it just accumulates with each irrigation. This is why the salinity in the soil has increased since the last report in July 2013. The last few months in 2013 were dry so more water was irrigated and more salt added to the soil.

Therefore, there can be no conclusions about the effectiveness of the irrigation as claimed by AGL. It is simply a demonstration of the effect of adding salty water to soil.

To claim that the soil has "showed significant improvement" is also not correct. The only improvement relates to the large quantities of soil amendment AGL has added to the site at great expense.

Unless the design of the program is substantially changed there will never be any worthwhile data or results. It is simply a program for disposing of produced water from AGL test wells. More details about Groundswell Gloucester's concerns with this 'trial' are in their report "Exposing the Risks"

Ends

**Further information:**

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