

MEDIA RELEASE 22 December 2011

AGL SNUBS GLOUCESTER COMMUNITY

WATER STUDY DEMAND SUBVERTED UNDER COVER OF CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Yesterday AGL contacted members of the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) to advise that an extraordinary meeting is to be held on 12 January 2012. The purpose of the meeting is to appoint a Peer Reviewer to review AGL's groundwater study. The CCC members were further advised that the review is to be completed within four weeks and a report presented to the CCC at a meeting on 23 February 2012.

"The unseemly haste to move to implement and complete this review, especially during the Christmas holidays, is an obvious attempt to avoid verbal commitments given during the recent blockade," said Barrington-Gloucester-Stroud Preservation Alliance spokesperson, Graeme Healy.

"AGL staff went to considerable lengths to assure us that comprehensive and detailed information would be provided, including inspection of water monitoring sites, to enable discussions to seek to resolve differences over the water study. The clear implication given was that this would occur before any moves to finalise the study."

"It is also breathtakingly disrespectful of the Gloucester community who have stated categorically by mounting the blockade, that they do not support AGL's peer reviewed hydrogeological study of the Stage 1 area of the project. The community is insistent that a fully independent water study of the entire Gloucester Basin be undertaken, as further reinforced by the moratorium called for by Gloucester Shire Council and the Board of MidCoast Water."

"The community has no confidence at all in the CCC as a vehicle for representing the interests and concerns of the community. It retains only very circumscribed authority to comment and recommend. It is dominated by company representatives and serves mainly as a vehicle to control the dissemination of information and manage and sideline objections. Yet company decisions can then be presented as having been the result of a community consultation process."

"This action reflects extreme arrogance and contempt," said Mr Healy. "It will simply serve to deepen the level of mistrust towards AGL and destroy any remaining goodwill held by the community."

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