

Media Release

19 March 2015

NEW POLL SHOWS COAL SEAM GAS NOT WANTED IN GLOUCESTER AND THE MANNING VALLEY

The first community polling of Manning Valley residents released publicly since recent AGL coal seam gas controversies shows an overwhelming majority of residents [88%] are concerned about pollution of water from coal seam gas [1].

The poll covered people in two National Party-held state electorates – Upper Hunter and Myall Lakes. The Gloucester gas project is located in the electorate of Upper Hunter, but downstream water users in the Manning Valley seat of Myall Lakes are also very concerned about the risks of the industry.

Key poll findings include:

- a large majority of people [75.6%] oppose coal seam gas mining by AGL at Gloucester
- 64.6% of Nationals Voters and 69.1% of undecided voters do not support AGL's coal seam gas activities at Gloucester
- 71.6% of voters are “very concerned” about water pollution from fracking

Groundswell Gloucester spokesperson, John Watts said it is now obvious why AGL has been refusing to release the results of its own polling on community attitudes.

“These poll results demonstrate that there is almost no local support for their destructive activities and AGL clearly has no social licence to continue damaging the environment and the Gloucester community.” Mr Watts said.

“The time has come for AGL to realise that they are not wanted and for them to pack up and leave.”

Lock the Gate spokesperson Phil Laird said “The National Party is out of step with country voters on coal seam gas, but there is still time for them to join the broad community consensus that the industry should be stopped.”

[1] Reachtel polled 701 residents in the Local Government Areas of Gloucester and Greater Taree on the night of 17 March 2015