

Chair and Pac Members

Thank you for listening to my concerns and reasons why these Expansions and the Applicant are not suitable for the area especially seeing this area is a Recharge area of the Great Artesian Basin.

My name is Tony Pickard

I would like to point out my stance: I am not against Mining of any kind; however it must be done with respect to 3 things:

1. Unconditional Respect for all elements that make-up the Environment.
2. Unconditional Respect for the Laws of the State and Nation.
3. Unconditional Respect for those in the immediate area of the Mining operation.

A little about myself and my relationship with these applications; I am a small time wool grower whose property is next to the Dewhurst 13 to 18H Pilot, about 16 kilometres from Dewhurst 29-30, and about 14 km from the Bibblewindi Expansion.

I have been watching the CSG Industry in PEL 238 since 2008.

My qualifications are that I am a Heavy Diesel Mechanic who went to sea and obtained his Marine Engineering Commonwealth Class 1 Motor and Class 2 Steam Certificates. I have no University Qualifications as my Marine Engineering course was through the Sydney Technical College.

My wife and I live next door and very close to the proposed Expansions, so that makes me a very local local.

Santos has never consulted with either my wife or myself about Dewhurst 13-18H Pilot Expansion and yet we live next door.

Santos may try to say "because I am on the Narrabri Santos Community Consultation Committee and I take a keen interest in the activities around me, that they do not feel it necessary to consult with us about these Expansions". Well until my wife and I are consulted at our own house, then neither Santos nor any other party can claim that they have consulted with the Locals.

It is as if we do not exist in the eyes of Santos.

If Santos had of Consulted as they claim, would the Community have started the Court action they have?

Let me tell you how Santos negotiates and why I will never trust what they say.

*"In late 2013 Santos approached us with the intent of purchasing our property. We were told that only 3 people in Santos knew of this. They asked us for our price and agreed that it was fair. However, from that point on the Conditions started. Santos wanted us to say "we approached them about purchasing our place", when that was cleared up Santos then wanted us to "reduce our involvement with any anti-CSG activity" the final straw was when Santos asked us "to drop any involvement with the matter that is now before the Land and Environment Court"."*

This entire Gas Project and all the activities and comments surrounding it have put my wife and I under enormous stress.

I will now move onto showing and explaining some of the reasons why I do not think this Industry should go ahead in the Southern Recharge area of the Great Artesian Basin.

A—From Dewhurst 6C in May 2009 --Drilling fluid found to be returning to an unlined sump well after the Drill rig had moved on-was on Prime 7 News.

There were grey trails on every road leading from the drill rig to Bibblewindi Ponds during and after drilling.

B & C—Fungal Growth on material at the site of the 2011/2012 Bibblewindi Water Treatment Spill.

I have suffered an adverse reaction to the eyes from getting too close to an open sample of this.

D---Water from a pond at the BWTF spill site taken in July 2012 and Analysed. This pond had dried up twice since January 2012. The levels of SRB -- 92,000 SRB/100 mL, they took their food from the spilt Produced Water. This level is well above the so-called natural level. Remember this pond had dried up twice in 7 months, so these bacteria can survive in damp soil and thus the gas wells are subject to attack from these Bacteria at many levels.

To show the PAC that the above problems are not just at the BWTF spill site

E--- Fungal growth over tar like samples from the Bohena 7 unlined pond sample taken 15-12-12.

F--- Samples of soil taken from around the edges of the unlined pond at Bohena 7, note the white salts. Sample taken 5-12-12.

H—sample of well pad and sump liner. This material is still being used today. This material is very weak and easily punctured and there are many photos of just that fact.

I--- Sample of cement used to seal gas wells taken from Bohena 2 and Bohena 6.

You will note that the Bohena 2 sample is light and weak, this is of a concern as it shows that the cement if not of correct strength may not be able to last as a seal for long, hence the abandoned gas well will leak.

J—this is a sample of plastic lined pipe (age is approx. 5 years) found on the Bohena 2 site after the well was abandoned. This sample has been kept dry and under cover since collection. Note the rust and corrosion. SRB will love this.

All of the shown sample examples are from surface sites where spills have occurred. These spills have occurred as far back as late 1999 and are only a small part of a long line of spill, leaks and dischargers that have occurred in PEL 238 over the years and are still occurring today.

All these have and continue to leach further into the aquifers that make up the Southern recharge of the GAB and eventually these will, if they have not already, reach the GAB its self.

This is part of the reason why this Industry or Santos should not be here.

I believe all these are reasons why this Industry is no safe enough to be in the Area of the Southern Recharge of the GAB.

Tony Pickard

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