

Gas Exploration News

For the Broke and Bulga communities

December 2007

sydneygas

Meeting to resolve concerns

MEETINGS of the Bulga Gas Exploration Project Community Consultative Committee (CCC) are underway and are constructively addressing community concerns that relate to gas exploration in the area.

The most recent meeting was held on November 26, at the Broke Community Hall.

The committee is chaired by former State Minister for the Environment Hon. Pam Allan.

Dr John Saunders, Chairman of Sydney Gas, is on the CCC and said the meetings are proving to be productive for all participants.

"Community consultative committees can be a very useful forum to address community concerns in an open and accountable manner," said Dr Saunders.

"When we established a community consultative committee in Camden, our understanding of community issues and relationship with the community changed dramatically, for the better," he said.

"There is every indication the same will occur with the communities in the Broke and Bulga area," he said.

Dr Saunders said many of the earlier concerns raised by the community representatives were due to the company's poor communications and the community's lack of knowledge about gas exploration.

"We are keen to communicate better and address those concerns, so that future decisions in the Hunter will take fully into account technical, environmental as well as social benefit-cost considerations," Dr Saunders said.

Dr Saunders renewed his invitation to committee members to visit the Camden operation, which is being organised for the New Year.

Sydney Gas concurs with the view of local community representatives that the November CCC meeting was very constructive and established a good platform to build upon and move forward with.



Photo courtesy of the Singleton Argus.

(Back) Barry Smith and Graeme Gibson, community representatives, Dr John Saunders, Chairman of Sydney Gas, Bob Kennedy, community representative, Joe Choudhury, Sydney Gas technical advisor, Cr Andrew Henry, Frank Krstic, general counsel Sydney Gas, (Front) Hughie Smith, community representative, Cr Tony McNamara, Julie Mahoney from the Department of Primary Industries and Pam Allen.

Next coreholes to be drilled

THE process to be followed after an Access Agreement has been signed with a Landowner is the lodgement of a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) with the Department of Primary Industries (DPI). The REF is a document which assesses whether Sydney Gas' activities will have an environmental impact. It also has measures outlined to ensure that its activities avoid or minimise environmental impacts. Approval has been given by the DPI for Sydney Gas to continue its exploration work with the drilling of a further two coreholes. With the drilling of these coreholes, samples will be taken of the coal seams to better assist evaluation of the gas reserves in the region.

The next core hole approved is Loder 1 and is located on private property east of the Broke Road at Mt Thorley. The second core hole approved is Howes Valley 1 and is located along the Putty Road at Howes Valley.

The REFs approved by the DPI for both core holes can be viewed and downloaded from our website: www.sydneygas.com.

In future, Sydney Gas will share with the community any REF after a first agreed draft has been lodged with DPI.

Road rehab

SINGLETON Council has confirmed that Sydney Gas acted in accordance with its approval process in its seismic exploration work in the area.

Sydney Gas will continue working with the Council and its own sub-contractors to address changed road surfaces and/or damage following the seismic studies when independent engineering and repair assessments have been completed.

Corehole conclusion

WE have finished all exploration activities at the site of core hole three and have completed rehabilitating the land.

We submitted our final report to the DPI on November 28, 2007.

Apologies if it was inferred in our last Information Sheet that the DPI had officially approved sign off on rehabilitation. Our statement was made pursuant to the Department making its final site inspection at the time.

Annual general meeting

SYDNEY Gas held their annual general meeting on Friday, November 30. At the meeting our Chairman, Dr Saunders, noted that "the Hunter may hold important coal seam gas reserves and offer significant upside potential if developed in a sustainable way taking into account technical, environmental and social benefit-cost issues".

Approximately 50 people attended, including a representative of the Bulga Gas Action Group.



Spot the well

UNFORTUNATELY there was no winning entry to the last newsletter picture, perhaps emphasising the point that completed wells make an indiscernible impact on the environment and landscape. The good news is this edition's competition now increases to \$200 prize money.

In this edition the entry with the arrow closest to the well site will win, so it is a great edition to try your luck. Each entry must have only one arrow pointing to the entrants chosen location. If there is more than one arrow per entry then the entry will be judged as void.

Entries can be sent by email or fax to:

Attention: Cindy Huang
Sydney Gas
f: 02 9241 5155
e: cindy.huang@sydneygas.com
t: 02 9253 5555

This competition is the subject of NSW Permit No: LPTS/07/26584.

Terms and conditions for the competition are available on the Sydney Gas website: www.sydneygas.com or via Cindy Huang on the contact details above.

Have your say

SYDNEY GAS invites community feedback and questions.

If you have a question, concern or some feedback please let us know.

You can speak with Colin or Elizabeth locally, or you can contact Scott at our head office directly or via our website:

W: www.sydneygas.com
E: office@sydneygas.com

Latest news

We regularly publish our latest presentations and announcements on our website, visit the site for the latest news on Sydney Gas: www.sydneygas.com.

New faces of Sydney Gas

TWO new Sydney Gas representatives have begun work in the Hunter, Colin Stace, Land and Community Officer - Hunter and Elizabeth Flaherty, Public Relations Consultant.

Colin is a qualified environmental chemist and will be overseeing all land access activities.

He lives in Newcastle and is available to explain and discuss any of our exploration activities in the area.

Elizabeth is a public relations specialist and freelance journalist, who has recently returned to her home town of Scone.

She will focus on helping us improve our communication with the broader community.

Their contact details are:

Colin Stace
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Elizabeth Flaherty
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Colin Stace, Land and Community Officer - Hunter, Sydney Gas



Elizabeth Flaherty, Public Relations Consultant, Sydney Gas

Help line

We are available to the local community

24hrs, 7 days

t: 02 9751 2067