

Media Release from:

Kingaroy Concerned Citizens Group (KCCG)

Kingaroy Concerned Citizens Group (KCCG) has noted the media release tonight from Australia Pacific LNG concerning traces of BTEX chemicals near CSG projects west of Miles.

These BTEX chemicals are the same family of contaminants found at Cougar Energy's UCG site in Kingaroy, namely benzene and toluene.

KCCG members believe that it was only a matter of time before such elements were detected near CSG sites, and that saturation testing would reveal many more contaminated sites and water aquifers. The event also confirms that both the CSG and UCG industries have been allowed to proceed without precautionary principal in place to judiciously approve each project and then ensure that environmental protection is proactively managed.

As a community affected by a similar event, KCCG members express their sympathy to this new community now affected by a CSG contamination event, and who must now start the process of asking the many questions that such an unfortunate event poses. Such questions would include not just how such projects get approved without local consultation in the first place, but also the effect on land valuations, cattle being clean of chemical residue, what else is contaminated but not detected, and all the technical understanding needed to critically evaluate the response by DERM and Australia Pacific.

It is perhaps one more sign that the Queensland Government will be playing catch up with the run away mining industry for some time to come. The prospect of this type of CSG contamination of water and valuable cropping land has recently been graphically illustrated in the documentary "Gaslands" soon to be released in Australia. It clearly illustrates the consequences in the USA of compromising environmental protection to favour mining companies who do not want the inconvenience of environmental accountability. It also highlights the problems for Governments who allow companies such favours and the taxpayer who foots the bill for lousy governance.

One can only hope that when asked to formally explain the contamination event to DERM and the local community that Australia Pacific learns from Cougar Energy mistakes, and submits a scientifically substantial effort instead of being told to resubmit due to its poor standard of detail and scientific substance.

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