



GASLAND

A response to the recent factsheet circulated by APPEA regarding the feature documentary GASLAND.

The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA) has issued a document drawn largely from a 'debunking' document issued on June 9, 2010 by a group known as *Energy-in-Depth (E-I-D)* - a PR film/lobbying group funded by the American Petroleum Institute. There are no authors named on the document 'Debunking GasLand'.

The EID document 'Debunking Gasland' can be viewed here:
<http://www.energyindepth.org/2010/06/debunking-gasland/>

Filmmaker Josh Fox responded in depth to the accusations on July 12, 2010 in a 39 page reply "Affirming GasLand". The main participants in this affirmation are Barbara Arrindell, cofounder and director of Damascus Citizens for Sustainability; Ron Bishop, PhD, lecturer in chemistry and biochemistry at SUNY Oneonta; Steve Coffman, author, educator, and former chair of Committee to Preserve the Finger Lakes; Anthony R. Ingraffea, PhD, the D.C. Baum professor of engineering at Cornell University; Weston Wilson, retired EPA environmental engineer and filmmaker Josh Fox.

Josh Fox's response 'Affirming GasLand' can be viewed here:
<http://www.damascuscitizens.org/Affirming-GASLAND.pdf>

The APPEA document can be viewed here:
http://www.appea.com.au/images/stories/Policy_CSG/Factfile_Gasland_v3.pdf

The APPEA document makes use of many of the same points as the original EID 'Debunking GasLand' document, observations refuted already in 'Affirming

GasLand', but does add mention the Australian situation on four occasions, namely:

PG1

Mentions that the Queensland & Australian CSG industry is one of the most heavily regulated and scrutinized in the country.

PG3

Mentions that the risk to public health or the environment posed by fracking is *negligibly low* according to occupational exposure standards published by Safe Work Australia

PG3

Mentions that in Queensland, the government is *introducing* regulations that will require notification, both to the government and landholders, of all chemicals being used in facing and indeed all chemicals used on a petroleum well site.

PG4

Mentions that fracking fluids are stored in ponds or tanks that prevent the fluid from re-entering the surrounding environment, and that Queensland model environmental authority conditions will require the dams used to store fracking fluids must be designed with a floor and sides made of material to contain the wetting front and any entrained contaminants during its operation life, including any period of decommissioning and rehabilitation.

Despite these assurances in the APPEA document regarding the coal seam gas industry safeguards in Australia, the links to recent newspaper coverage included below attest that there is sufficient doubt as to whether the local industry is immune to the types of incidents depicted in the feature film GASLAND as substantiated by the document 'Affirming GasLand'.

AUG 27

Kingaroy (QLD) groundwater contaminated – gas drilling suspended

<http://www.gasland.com.au/2010/08/kingaroy-groundwater-contaminated-gas-drilling-suspended/>

SEP 24

Sydney Morning Herald Cover Story Pt 2

Mine threatens city water

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/water-issues/mine-threatens-city-water-20100923-15osh.html>

OCT 19

Australian mining companies 'fracking' with highly toxic chemicals near watercourses

<http://www.smh.com.au/business/list-reveals-toxic-chemicals-used-in-coal-seam-mining-20101018-16qt5.html>

OCT 20

Cancer chemical found at western Queensland gas site

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/business/cancer-chemical-found-at-gas-site/story-e6fregmx-1225940922665>

OCT 21

Claims of illnesses and cover-up unearthed as D-day looms for coal seam gas industry

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/business/claims-of-illnesses-and-cover-up-as-d-day-looms-for-coal-seam-gas-projects/story-e6fregmx-1225941426413>

FURTHER INFORMATION:

For a local perspective on this issue, Palace Films is able to put any interested parties in touch with spokespeople from many of the Australian communities who are directly affected by the burgeoning coal seam gas industry. Please contact us on (02) 9357 5755 or Paige.Diamond@palacefilms.com.au