

Camden Gas Project Tour

1. The Australian Botanic Garden, Narellan Road, Mount Annan

This 416 hectare botanical garden was opened in 1988 and now has a collection of over 4000 species of native plants on display. AGL's coal gas wells can be found around the perimeter of the Botanic Garden while gas pipelines can be seen running through the gardens. After growing community concern AGL decided to donate a new pavilion to the Mt Annan Botanic Gardens in 2011.



The original custodians of this area were the Dharawal people. Numerous Aboriginal sites have been located in the surrounding area including artefact scatters of stone tools, open camp sites and scarred trees. The Blue Knowledge Tree (above right) is one site that is now within 200 metres of one of AGL's producing coal seam gas wells.

2. Caesia Way and Alchornea Crescent, Mount Annan

On the border of the Botanic Gardens are some of the new estates of Mount Annan. Here AGL's coal seam gas wells can be seen producing gas just 95 metres from homes. (See 3 Caesia Way, 94 Alchornea CCT)



View of CSG wells looking north to subdivision

View from subdivision looking south at CSG wells

3. Reynolds Street and Holland Drive Spring Farm

The new estate of Riverside in Spring Farm is surrounded by at least 7 coal seam gas wells within 1km of homes. There has been a history of problems since these wells were drilled in 2010.



View of CSG well site



View of CSG wells looking west towards subdivision

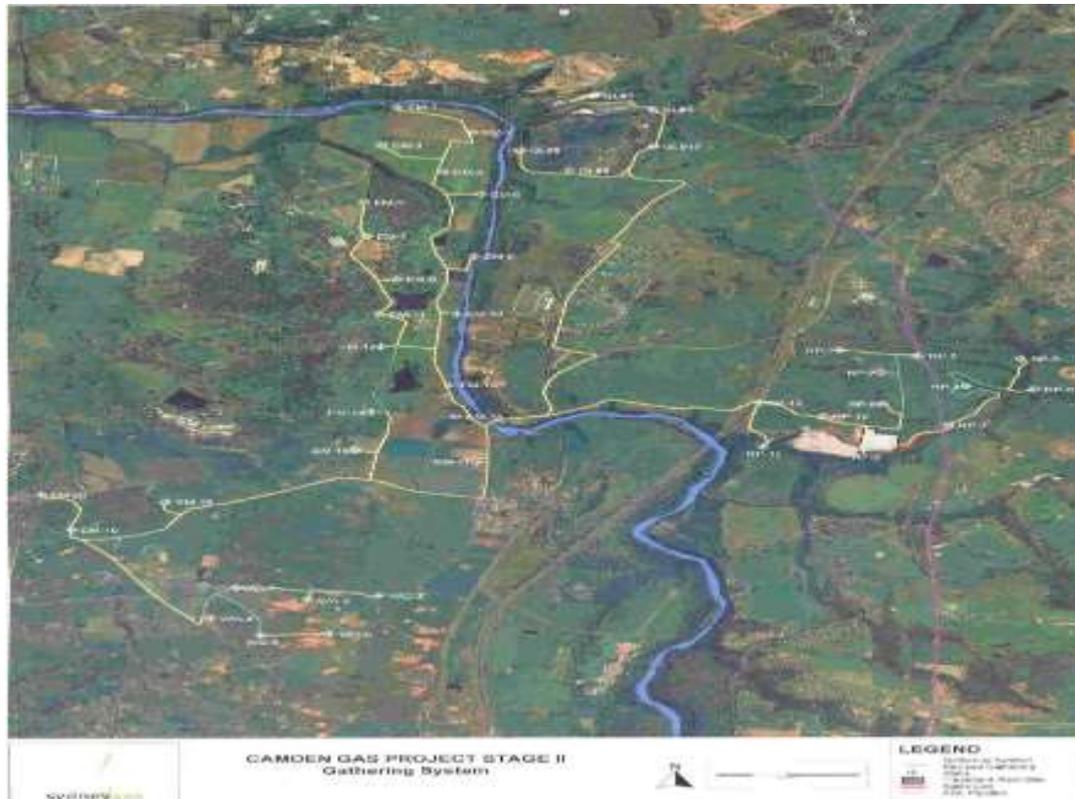
A water leak first occurred at AGL's Spring Farm 9 gas well on 13 Nov 2011 and was investigated by AGL for 6 months until the NSW Coal Seam Gas Inquiry had concluded on May 1st. The next day on May 2nd 2012 AGL admitted that a 1000 litre water spill had occurred due to incorrect procedures.



On 31 August 2014 AGL's Spring Farm 5 gas well sprayed approximately 10,000 cubic feet of gas into the air just 200 metres from homes. Emergency services told residents to stay in their homes and cordoned off Reynolds Street. Residents that night stated they could smell and taste gas in the air. AGL and the EPA are still investigating. Meanwhile residents have been complaining of headaches, blood noses, rashes and respiratory problems.

4. Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, Old Hume Highway and Finns Road Menangle

This Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute opened in 1990 as a leading research facility specializing in plant and animal health. The (EMAI) is located on the western side of the Nepean River (see blue line running through map below) near Cawdor and includes some of the original lands granted to agricultural pioneers John and Elizabeth Macarthur in 1805.



The EMAI is owned by the NSW Department of Primary Industries. AGL and Sydney Gas have been drilling on this site since at least 2002. In 2006 Ian Macdonald (Former Minister for Primary Industries and Mineral Resources) approved a further 14 CSG wells on the EMAI. Today there are 36 coal seam gas wells on the EMAI site.

While the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute is closed to the public AGL's coal seam gas wells can be seen when driving along the Old Hume Highway, Finns Rd and Woodbridge Rd Menangle.

One of the major questions surrounding AGL's coal seam gas operations within the EMAI grounds is that of water treatment and disposal. AGL have told the community a number of stories such as the water is treated and used in a local brickworks and it is taken away to a commercial wastewater treatment plant in Windsor. Locals maintain that much of the produced water was left to sit in large evaporation ponds on the EMAI site where the sludge was eventually buried.

5. Menangle Park Paceway, Menangle Park

The Menangle Park Race Course opened in 1914 and was once used as an army camp used for the Australian Light Horse. Today it is surrounded by a series of AGL's coal seam gas wells. Some of these wells are within 200 metres of the race track others are just 100 metres from the Nepean River.



In January 2013 locals reported that one of the wells located closest to the Nepean River had flooded and gas bubbles could be seen emerging from the flood waters. There was concern that chemicals may have leached into the river.

Bubbles from Menangle Park well 'no risk' says AGL

By Megan Gorrey Feb. 6, 2013, 10:24 a.m.



The Menangle Park well location.

SUSPICIOUS bubbles which emerged from a flooded AGL coal seam gas well beside the Nepean River at Menangle Park during last week's heavy rains have raised concerns over the industry's ability to monitor itself.
