

Gas Turns Up Heat on Truth and Politics

6 August, 2010

Immediate Release

With less than 200 votes separating Labor and Liberal in the Central Coast, NSW, seat of Robertson at the last federal election, residents' increasing cynicism counts.

Political spin about natural gas exploration is angering the 307,000 residents in the marginal seats of Dobell and Robertson.

"We are hearing conflicting reports about whether the drilling is going ahead. Who is telling the truth? The people of the Central Coast deserve the truth from those who are seeking to represent our community in Federal Parliament." Independent Candidate for Robertson, Ms Michelle Meares said.

When the natural gas exploration was revealed to the public in late July, (<http://express-advocate-wyong.wherelive.com.au/news/story/four-drilling-sites-likely/> July 22) Liberal candidate Darren Jameson was quoted in the Central Coast Express Advocate that he was "shocked, disappointed but not surprised" to learn about the plan.

"The governments have taken this community for granted," he said in the Express Advocate. "We haven't been consulted. What about the emergency issues, what about if something goes wrong."

Perhaps a talk along the party line followed, because only two days later Mr Jameson was saying on NBN News we should understand what the benefits are as well.

But it wasn't just the Liberal party dancing to the tired spin.

Both Labor candidates, Robertson's Deborah O'Neill and Dobell's Craig Thomson, claimed victory last week "in stopping the drilling" (<http://express-advocate-wyong.wherelive.com.au/news/story/central-coast-gas-drilling-cancelled-claim-labor-federal-election-candidates/>

Odd, and a little embarrassing for Ms O'Neill, considering the exploration companies, Advent Energy and Bounty Oil and Gas, have cited their intention to go ahead with exploration in October 2010.

Meanwhile Ms O'Neill was quoted in the Express Advocate on August 2 saying: "This is a huge win for the people of the Central Coast who have stopped Advent Energy's plans for offshore drilling off our coast."

"I have been opposed to this plan from day one but we couldn't have done it without support from the local community.

Similarly, Mr Thomson, the member for Dobell, prematurely said the news was a huge relief for local residents.

“We’ve fought this proposal tooth and nail and it just goes to show a little bit of people power goes a long way.

“I am delighted that the company has listened and withdrawn its application,” Mr Thomson continued.

At a media conference with Julia Gillard in Wyong on Tuesday, Mr Thomson told journalists the drilling exploration would not be going ahead.

“On this same day Advent Energy, was at a conference in Melbourne busy spruiking the benefits of the Central Coast offshore gas site.’ Ms Meares said.

Today (Friday 6 August) MEC Resources has issued a media release:

“MEC’s investee company Advent Energy Limited (“Advent”) has advised that its preparations for drilling within PEP11 are still running to the schedule announced to the ASX on 27 July 2010.... Ocean Patriot has been contracted by Advent to drill an exploration well in PEP11, and is anticipated to be available to commence drilling in the fourth quarter 2010.”

“Someone is misleading our community.” Ms Meares said.

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Download the Advent Energy presentation here (Tuesday 3 August 2010):

<http://www.adventenergy.com.au/ASX%20MMR%20Microcap%20Conference%20Presentation%20030810.pdf>

Audio of the Executive Director for Advent Energy, Mr David Breeze discussing the project (Tuesday 27 July 2010):

<http://www.brr.com.au/event/67074/mec-resources-to-present-and-the-upcoming-australian-microcap-investment-conference-in-melbourne-on-the-3rd-of-august-2010>

Download the MEC Resources media release here (Friday 6 August 2010):

<http://announcements.fortbridge.net/2010/08/06/mec-resources-confirms-drilling-preparations-offshore-sydney-basin/>