



# Tomorrow needs your vote today

## **Andy Grodecki – Greens Candidate for the seat of Beaudesert** *For a new job-rich green economy*

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### **Who knew about Scenic Rim Fracking and why didn't we?**

Andy Grodecki, Greens Candidate for the seat of Beaudesert is appalled but not surprised to hear of the revelations about secret CSG fracking in the Scenic Rim. He said "Again it has been the community, our incredible 'Keep the Scenic Rim Scenic' group, which has revealed the shocking reality that fracking with dangerous chemicals, has been undertaken on Beaudesert's doorstep. Three years after the fact, reporting by Arrow to the ALP government has finally uncovered that they have fracked using a suite of dangerous chemicals only 5km from Beaudesert and upstream of Beaudesert and Jimboomba water treatment plants and the Bromelton off-stream storage."

Andy Grodecki asks "Why didn't the people of Beaudesert know about this. Did Gelita Australia, the Scenic Rim and Logan City Councils know about this and not let the community know? Did the Minister and Cabinet know and approve fracking wells to be sunk on the Logan River through the alluvial aquifers? What justification can there possibly be for approving such testing? What kind of government can even think of risking our farms, our water, even our food, without making absolutely sure that CSG is safe? What other companies, in how many locations across Queensland were allowed to use these chemicals and perhaps even the banned fracking chemicals?"

Andy added "As someone who has worked for two decades to try and get all key stakeholders to work to improve the health of the Logan catchment, I'm appalled to discover that fracking has already occurred using toxic chemicals under the blessing or under the noses of state government who are supposedly have the toughest CSG regulations and monitoring regime in place. Anyone who lives or draws water from the Logan knows that it completely linked to the surrounding alluvial aquifers. What goes into the aquifer goes into irrigation water and into the river. What would be like if we have hundred or thousand of these to police across the region?"

Andy said "I have been on Gelita Australia's Community Consultative Committee for many years and was genuinely impressed with their attempts to limit their impact on the environment. From this and the limited media reporting at the time I was aware that Arrow was approved to do some limited testing and that Gelita had approval to construct a small dam to hold 'very low salinity water' on their site. I was not informed by Gelita that fracking was to be undertaken and that dangerous chemicals were to be used on the Logan River floodplain and it was not minuted in any meeting I may have missed. Was Gelita fully aware the nature of Arrow's testing?"

Andy added "there are many questions that arise out of this such as: What assessment was made of the risk to the Beaudesert and Jimboomba water supply and the health of Logan River? What provisions are in place to ensure these wells are not leaking now and will not leak in the shallower aquifers in 20 years time? Right now we're seeing reports from all around the world: fracking is poisoning land and water ... water catching fire! ... and we're supposed to believe billionaire miners who say that everything is OK? On what planet are they living? It's certainly nowhere near a CSG leak."

Andy says he want answers to these questions. He said "Coal seam gas is short-term profit for billionaires. It has to be stopped until it can prove it's safe. The Greens have committed to a moratorium on CSG exploration and further development approvals while the potential environmental, economic and social impacts are properly investigated. This is our State – it's not just a gas field that the mining billionaires can use however they like – but right now there are farmers being told their land is not theirs any more. This is not right." He went on "So why aren't the old parties stopping it? What would have been the consequences of the bore casing cracked into this aquifer when the chemicals were being injected or the high pressure contaminated water was drawn out and presumably pumped across the floodplain to a holding dam? Was the site and the dam/s fully decontaminated? Were these contaminated storages full during last summers floods and how did they hold up? Is the Beaudesert and Cedar Grove water treatment plant testing for these chemicals and how are they removed if detected?."

As I have demonstrated at public forums held in Beaudesert and Tamborine Mountain, we don't NEED to run all the risks of coal seam gas when there are thousands of jobs waiting for people who are ready to go to work making a clean energy future – building Queensland industries that lead the world. How can the old parties get it so wrong? What kind of politician takes land from farmers – and sacrifices the food they produce – and gives that land to billionaire coal seam miners for a pittance, for short term gain and long term pain? We need answers to all these questions and need to take a different way forward.

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