

Fact sheet: Camden Gas Project

About the Camden Gas Project

AGL's Camden Gas Project has been in operation since 2001 and safely supplies around five percent of NSW's gas needs.

The Project produces natural gas from coal seams throughout the Macarthur region of New South Wales. The field is located around 65 kilometres south-west of Sydney and operates within the Camden, Campbelltown and Wollondilly local government areas.

The Project originally had 144 wells, 92 of which are currently in production.

Besides the wells, the other major element of the Camden Gas Project is the Rosalind Park Gas Plant in Menangle, where natural gas is collected via low pressure underground gathering lines, compressed, dried and made ready for use by households and businesses, and transmitted into the greater Sydney natural gas network.

In February 2016, AGL announced that it will progressively decommission wells and rehabilitate sites at the Camden Gas Project prior to ceasing production in 2023.

Community engagement

AGL works with an independently chaired Community Consultative Committee. The Committee provides a forum of open discussion between AGL and the community on site operations. It acts as a channel to help AGL understand the community's issues of interest and improve our communication, education and notification with the Macarthur community. It comprises 13 members including four community representatives, two environment representatives, representatives from each of the councils, a representative from the EPA and three members from AGL's project team.



Figure 1: AGL Workover Rig

Rehabilitation and closure

As AGL progressively decommissions and rehabilitates wells toward ceasing production in 2023, we will not drill new wells.

In 2016, AGL decommissioned six wells and in 2017-18 we are progressively decommissioning 17 wells. We will then determine the next stage of wells to be decommissioned, accounting for landholder preferences, operational and regulatory requirements.

Decommissioning and rehabilitation work is undertaken with a high level of regulatory oversight by the NSW Government's Department of Planning & Environment and the NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), following standards set in the NSW Government's Code of Practice for Coal Seam Gas. AGL also works with land owners to ensure the rehabilitated site is left to their satisfaction.

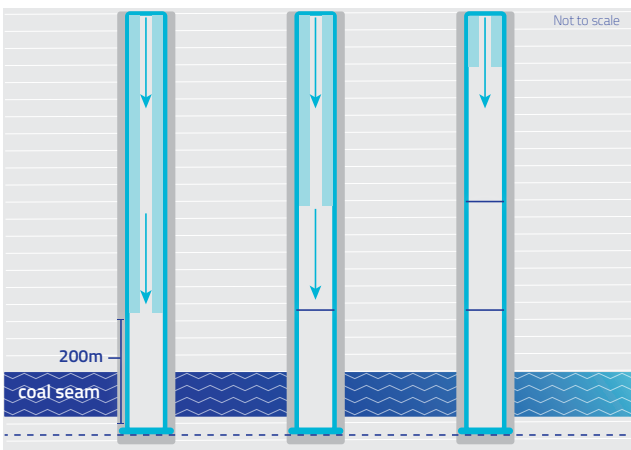
Gas well decommissioning and rehabilitation

When a coal seam gas well is identified as no longer required for production, it must be decommissioned and the site fully rehabilitated before receiving regulatory sign-off.

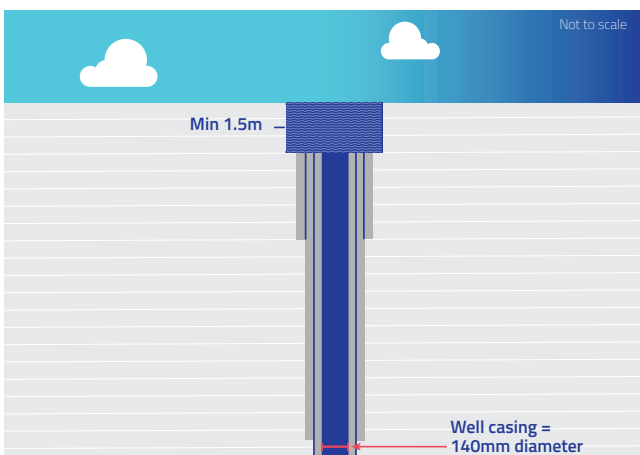
AGL decommissions and rehabilitates each well site using the following process.

Decommissioning

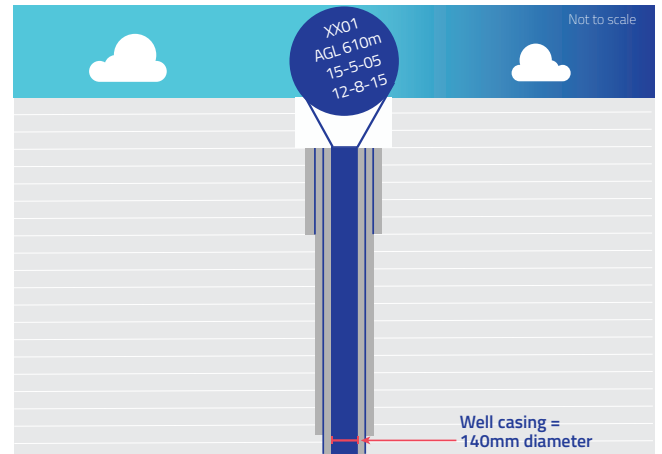
- The equipment at the top of the well is safely removed.
- A Workover Rig and other machinery comes to the well site (see figure 1). Residents are notified before this occurs.
- Purpose-specific cement, which complies with the standards set by the NSW Government's Code of Practice for Coal Seam Gas Well Integrity, is placed inside the well from bottom to top in stages.
- This cement seals the wellbore and adds to the integrity of the well.



The well casing is cut off, at least 1.5 metres below the surface, so that it does not interfere with agricultural and other future land uses. A steel cap, containing data such as the name of the well, the name of the operator, the well depth, when it was drilled and when it was decommissioned, is attached to the top of the casing.

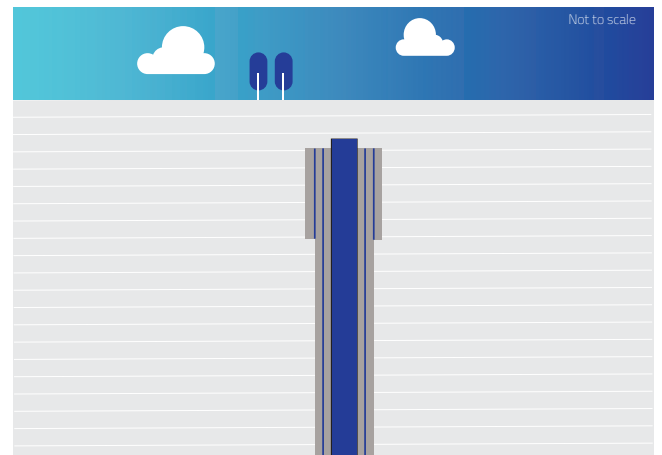


- The decommissioning works are overseen by the Department of Planning & Environment (DP&E) and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Gas Regulation branch, and conducted within stringent health, safety and environment guidelines. A full report is provided to the regulator once all decommissioning works have been completed.



Rehabilitation

- Initial rehabilitation returns the surface of the site to the original contour of the land, usually seed is sown, or as agreed with the landowner.
- Rehabilitation then continues over 12-18 months until both the regulator and landowner are satisfied.



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