



Condamine River gas seeps

A video recently posted online by a NSW Greens MP who opposes natural gas production claims that gas industry operations have caused bubbling in south-west Queensland's Condamine River.

This accusation is not supported by scientific or historical evidence. Bubbling gas in the Condamine River pre-dates gas production activity in the area. The natural gas industry strongly supports further research into this phenomenon.

Some facts about gas seeps and bubbles in the Condamine River

Fact 1: Natural gas seepage in parts of the Condamine River is not new – according to local knowledge it goes back at least 30 years.

Fact 2: The coals beneath the Condamine River naturally contain methane gas and are much closer to the surface than is normally the case.

Fact 3: Following an investigation into Condamine River gas seeps, the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines said in 2012: "...there is no safety risk or evidence of environmental harm occurring in the immediate area from the Condamine River gas seeps".

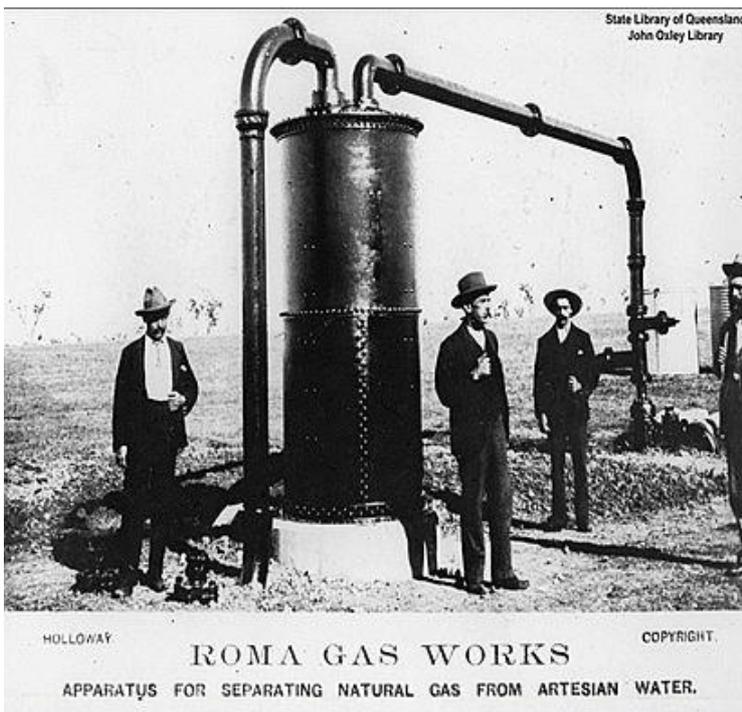
(Source: https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/119669/condamine-river-gas-seep.pdf).

Fact 4: Following 2.5 years of research into Condamine River gas seeps, the CSIRO stated: "the work has looked at the environmental impact in that area and it shows no impact whatsoever."

(Source: <http://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/news/national/gas-seeping-from-condamine-river-poses-no-threat-says-csiro/news-story/a5d03e36626644b87eccaab9710e37b>).

History of Queensland gas seeps

Naturally occurring gas seeps have been identified in Queensland's Western Downs region for more than 125 years. As early as 1889, people drilling for water are recorded to have encountered gas accumulations.



Early last century, one such natural gas accumulation was tapped to light the streets of Roma.



As in other parts of the world, such natural gas seeps pre-date gas industry operations. Across the Queensland gas fields region there is considerable historical and current evidence of gas in shallow rocks and surface soils, including the presence of gas in water bores.

A historical data search by GasFields Commission Queensland has identified the existence of natural gas seeps in Queensland's Surat, Eromanga, Cooper, Georgina, Bowen and Galilee basins.
(See: <http://www.naturalcsg.com.au/environment/gas-seeps/>).

These soil gas surveys show that landscape gas seeps existed naturally before the recent expansion of the onshore gas industry in Queensland.

The Queensland Government Mining Journal (Vol 68, 1967 – "Natural Gas Occurrence in the Brigalow Area") documents gas encountered during drilling for water bores.

Year	Discovery	Source
1889	Eagle Farm water bore gas at 1500 feet	EAGLE FARM BORE . (1889, August 23). The Brisbane Courier (Qld: 1864 - 1933), p. 5.
1900	Roma natural gas entered a water bore at 1.1km deep	GAS FROM BORE WATER . (1900, December 8). The Brisbane Courier (Qld: 1864 - 1933), p. 11.
1927	Gas flowing from Joulmie Station water bore, Broken Hill	JOULMIE STATION BORE . (1927, November 3). Barrier Miner (Broken Hill, NSW : 1888 - 1954), p. 2.
1928	Gas from water bore in Longreach and continuous flame 6 feet	LONGREACH BORE . (1928, September 13). The Brisbane Courier (Qld: 1864 - 1933), p. 16.
1930	Gas explosion during water bore drilling at Kilmorey Station, Mitchell	FLOW OF GAS IGNITES . (1930, October 17). The Longreach Leader (Qld: 1923 - 1954), p. 10.

Further reading: http://www.aplng.com.au/pdf/factsheets/condamine_river_studies_fact_sheet.pdf