

Update from Sledge, and Media Release from Gasfield Free Northern Rivers.. PLEASE ACT IN WHATEVER WAY YOU CAN.... be there OR RING/EMAIL your representatives, we need to make a BIG NOISE!!!

News from Bentley Blockade:

Sledge has posted this GFF alliance media release with the following update:

Please have your day bag packed and ready for a call-out when it comes. bring water, sunscreen and hat as well as signs, banners and camera.

I think trouble may be this coming week once the dust settles from the ANZAC long weekend. Be prepared to spend the day as we could be roadblocked ourselves. Usually police allow cars to go out, but not in, but anything can happen.

If you come to a police roadblock, park safely and join other community members protesting right there. We will get media at all points blocked. Be there to be counted! If you can't come on the big day, put on a black armband or wear black to show you are mourning for the demise of democracy in NSW.

In the meanwhile, write to and/or phone the new NSW Premier Mike Baird (Libs) and the new Minister for the North Coast Andrew Stoner (NP) and tell them any attack on the people who employ them will be long remembered.

See you at Bentley,

Sledge 25 April 2014

You represent the ANZAC spirit : courage and dedication to preserving our democracy for future generations.

Media Release 25 April 2014

Questions raised about Richmond Valley Council's treatment of anti-gas protest camp at Bentley

Gasfield Free Northern Rivers have raised serious concerns about the motivations of Richmond Valley Council in their treatment of the community camp set up on private land adjacent to Metgasco's planned gas drilling site at Bentley. Richmond Valley Council has refused Gasfield Free Northern Rivers' (GFNR) latest application to continue and expand the camp at Bungabee Road, which was made on behalf of community members opposing Metgasco's invasive drilling at Bentley.

"It is very concerning that whilst Gasfield Free Northern Rivers is trying to comply with all requests from Richmond Valley Council, we have been denied procedural fairness by them," said Gasfield Free Northern Rivers representative, Ian Gaillard.

"It is standard practice for Council to offer applicants an opportunity to address any perceived failings in their development applications, but for some reason Council is denying the community camp at Bentley this right."

"This begs the questions whether Council is running a political agenda in support of Metgasco or is under undue influence from a state government intent on forcing this toxic industry on an unwilling population in the Northern Rivers?"

"I know there are hundreds of properties in Richmond Valley that are non-compliant under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act*, yet it is only those exercising their democratic right to protest that are being treated unfairly", he said.

Even more disturbingly, despite making every effort to follow due process in our dealings with Council, the occupants of the community camp have been subjected to repeated spurious allegations and vilifying innuendo in public statements and media comments by Council representatives."

"Nonetheless, we will continue with our efforts to pursue an ongoing permit for the camp and have submitted notification to Richmond Valley Council that we will be lodging an application for redetermination of our development application under s82A," Mr Gaillard said.

"We will be pursuing all available legal avenues to maintain the existing camp so we can support people's right to peacefully protest Metgasco's invasive gas mining."

"The irony of the whole situation is that, as RVC well knows, maintaining the Bungabee Road camp is the best way of ensuring public safety and an orderly and organised camp," concluded Mr Gaillard.

Ian Gaillard 0431 108 784

Adam Guise 0402 431 521