

Dear Scott,

When I got involved in opposition to unconventional gas mining in the Northern Rivers almost five years ago, things were very different to what they are now! Back then, not many people had even heard of coal seam gas and even fewer understood the risks associated with what we now know is an invasive and dangerous industry. We were told everything would be ok, that we should just trust the industry.

I watched as CSG wells were drilled near my home, I documented problems with leaking wells and torn liners in drilling fluid dams and photographed wildlife dying in those same dams. By monitoring the process and the management of these projects I quickly realised things were not ok. In fact they were very wrong.

The opposition to this invasive industry in our region started as a handful of people gathered independent information and engaged and informed the community. Over time as more people became aware and involved we saw local groups and a regional alliance form and over one hundred communities declare themselves Gasfield Free. Opposition to the industry grew over a series of blockades culminating in the historic Bentley action, where thousands of people prepared to block the rig resulting in Metgasco's license being suspended.

However, none of this happened on its own! It has taken tireless dedication by many people who have put their lives on hold and as a result jobs, businesses and relationships have suffered. Hard work and a lot of personal time is what got the Gasfield Free Surveys done. The government lobbying, media exposure, independent experts touring our country and town halls, websites, videos, all took long hours and hard work and a lot of money.

Without the support of the community none of this would have happened and I'm quite sure we'd all be living in a gasfield right now.

We have achieved so much but there is so much more work to do. Metgasco is determined to continue its operations in our region and is fighting the government in court. Along with Metgasco, other companies are circling us like vultures. Dart Energy (now IGas) just had an exploration licence renewed that covers Lismore, Kyogle, Nimbin and surrounds. ERM is currently funding studies in the Clarence Valley and seems set to begin work sometime in the near future.

That's why I am writing to you today to ask for your support. As the year comes to a close we are looking towards next year where we'll need resources and help to continue the fight.

Can you make a donation to the cause? Honestly, I have NO idea how much to ask you for, but is a donation of \$25 something you'd be able to consider?

If you can help out, please donate at: <http://gasfieldfreenorthernrivers.org/donate/>

Here's some of the things we spend it on:

- A modest payment to the two Gasfield Free Northern Rivers coordinators (myself and Elly) to cover expenses, fuel and phone and so that we can spend as much time as possible involved in managing and coordinating the entire campaign in the Northern Rivers.
- We support the film makers, Brendan and David by helping them with computer equipment and expenses such as fuel.
- Signs, banners and information flyers.
- Events, concerts and rallies.
- Freedom of information costs to get information about companies involved in gas mining and their projects.
- Office costs, advertising.
- And many more.....

The costs are endless and at the end of a very busy year we find ourselves in a position of needing your help to continue our fight to protect the Northern Rivers from unconventional Gas mining.

You can donate here: <http://gasfieldfreenorthernrivers.org/donate/>

With your help we can use the money for many projects, actions and to apply the pressure needed to once and for all get this industry permanently banned from our entire region. My family and I and the entire community of the Northern Rivers thanks you for your consideration.

If you do donate, please send me an email to let me know so I can thank you: wolfweb@gmail.com

Merry Christmas and have a happy new year!

Regards,

Dean Draper

Gasfield Free Northern Rivers Coordinator
gasfieldfreenorthernrivers.org

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Lock the Gate Alliance · PO Box 6285, Sth Lismore, NSW 2480, Australia