



NORTHERN RIVERS GUARDIANS

MEDIA RELEASE

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Have your say on coal seam gas mining

The Northern Rivers Guardians (NRG) has encouraged all concerned community members to make a submission to the NSW Government's Coal and Gas Strategy.

"Coal Seam Gas mining poses real and imminent threats to our agricultural and eco-tourism industries in the Tweed Valley", according to NRG spokesperson Michael McNamara.

Coal Seam Gas mining, or "fracking" as it is known, involves fracturing a coal seam to release methane.

Land owners and residents in Tara in south east Queensland have led a national campaign in opposition to the process under the banner of *Lock the Gate*, a national coalition of over 70 environmental, farming and community groups.

"Community members in the Tweed have joined the fight to impose a moratorium on 'fracking' until the impacts are better understood and the process is proven safe" he said.

"The strategy being developed by the new state government will guide the approval process of applications for Coal Seam Gas exploration licences in the Tweed and other areas in NSW"

"Submissions close on Friday 15 April – that's Friday of this week!"

"This is a once only chance to have input"

"The potential for the development of coal seam gas mining in the Tweed to undermine and destroy existing and developing agricultural and tourist ventures should not be underestimated" he said.

Information about the strategy and how to lodge a submission is available at:

<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/StrategicPlanning/CoalandGasStrategy/tabid/495/language/en-AU/Default.aspx>

"Further information is also available at the northern Rivers Guardians website at www.northernriversguardians.org and at the Lock the Gate website <http://lockthegate.org.au> " Mr McNamara said.