



Northern  
Rivers  
Guardians

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### *Community unites against coal seam gas mining*

30 members of the Northern Rivers Guardians (NRG) from the Tyalgum area braved cold and wet conditions to attend a meeting at Tyalgum Hall on Tuesday night to plan local strategies for action and fundraising to fight coal seam gas mining.

Coal Seam Gas Campaign Co-ordinator for NRG, Michael McNamara, said he was delighted at the turnout.

“Members were full of enthusiasm for the campaign and proposed a wide range of strategies” he said.

“It was a real demonstration of the concerns felt right across the community about the impact of fracking on the future of the Tweed Valley”

Fracking, or hydraulic fracturing, is the process used to extract methane from coal seams. The process involves pumping water with various chemical and other additives into a coal seam to release the methane trapped in the seam.

Mr McNamara encouraged members to attend the **United Community Gathering** at Knox Park in Murwillumbah from 11am on Saturday 14 May.

“The Gathering will include a march through the Murwillumbah CBD from 11:15am and speakers from a range of community groups and organisations from 12 noon. Food will be available for purchase and families are encouraged to make a day of it.”

“This campaign is all about the legacy we leave our children and grandchildren, whether it be in terms of viable agricultural or tourism enterprises, with the associated employment opportunities, or a healthy and vibrant environment” he said.

The meeting discussed ways in which members could ensure the event was a successful demonstration of community concerns about the impact of coal seam gas mining on the agricultural and tourism industries as well as on the broader community and the environmental values of the Tweed Valley.

Mr McNamara encouraged all members of the Tweed Valley community to attend the gathering to show their concerns and send a clear message to the mining companies that they were not wanted here.

He also said that it was an opportunity for community members to let the government and other political parties know how they felt about coal seam gas mining.

The **United Community Gathering** is being jointly organised by the Caldera Environment Centre and the Northern Rivers Guardians with support from a wide range of local groups including the Combined Tweed Rural Industries Association and the local branch of the NSW Canegrowers Association.

“Further information is available at the Northern Rivers Guardians website [www.northernriversguardians.org](http://www.northernriversguardians.org)” Mr McNamara said.

Further information:

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