



NORTHERN RIVERS GUARDIANS

MEDIA RELEASE

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CALL FOR MORATORIUM ON COAL SEAM GAS MINING

The Northern Rivers Guardians (NRG) have condemned the rush by the former ALP state government to approve exploration licences for coal seam gas mining in the Tweed Shire.

They have called for a moratorium on exploration and mining until all concerns have been addressed and the process is proven safe.

“This technology puts secure water supplies at such risk it should not even be considered until all concerns have been dealt with and it is proven to be safe” according to NRG spokesperson Michael McNamara.

“If you look at the map of exploration licences, either approved or applied for, it covers everything in the Tweed Shire west and south of Mt Warning” he said.

“The community is rallying against the imposition of this technology on the area” he said.

“Coal seam gas mining, or “fracking” as it is known, involves fracturing the coal seam to release methane gas. Methane is many times more dangerous as a contributor to global warming than CO₂.”

“The Northern Rivers Guardians have joined with the Lock the Gate Alliance to stop coal seam gas mining in the Tweed.”

“The Northern Rivers Guardians was formed to fight for sustainable development in the Tweed – and this is anything but sustainable” Mr McNamara said.

“Opposition to this technology is growing at a rapid pace in the Tweed and is leading to the development of a broadly based coalition” he said.

“Coal seam gas mining is opposed by The Greens, Friends of the Earth, the National Farmers Federation and many rural and regional community groups” he said.

“It is time that the new state government, the National Party and Tweed Shire Council supported local rural communities by declaring their opposition to coal seam gas mining.”

More information, and copies of a petition, can be found on

- the NRG website at <http://www.northernriversguardians.org>
- the *Lock The Gate Alliance* website at <http://lockthegate.org.au>