



Northern
Rivers
Guardians

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Northern Rivers community unites against coal seam gas mining

Approximately 3,000 people gathered in Murwillumbah on Saturday to show a united community standing against coal seam gas mining in the Northern Rivers.

Organisers of the United Community Gathering, the Northern Rivers Guardians (NRG) and the Caldera Environment Centre (CEC), said they were thrilled with the turnout.

“The attendance at the gathering sends a very clear message to government and the mining companies that the community does not want this industry in the Northern Rivers” according to NRG’s Coal Seam Gas Campaign Co-ordinator Michael McNamara .

Following a march through the CBD of Murwillumbah, that was so large that it spilled over onto the roadway, speakers addressed the assembled community members in Knox Park.

“We had representatives of a wide variety of community and industry groups speaking with one voice”

“Speakers came from local community groups, farmers’ organisations, local councils, tourism operators, Lock the Gate Alliance and members of the general community ”

“We even had community members from Tara in central Queensland, 5 hours drive away, and the Casino area share their experiences with the mining companies and fracking”

“Greens MLC Jeremy Buckingham also addressed the gathering.”

“Local state MPs Thomas George and Geoff Provest, and federal MP Justine Elliott were invited to attend and address the gathering but did not take up the offer” Mr McNamara said.

“Speakers talked about the values and attributes that typify the Northern Rivers. They emphasised the link between the successful industries that operate in our area and having a ‘clean, green’ image”

“Many speakers highlighted their concerns about the impact of coal seam gas mining on water quality, aquifers, public and individual health, the tourism and agricultural industries and the total disregard for community values and priorities that underpins the activities of the mining companies and the governments that allocate mining exploration and production licences”

“This was a very successful start to our united community campaign” Mr McNamara said.

“That nearly 3,000 people gave up a large part of their Saturday to voice their concerns about this issue so early in a campaign speaks volumes about the level of community concern out there and bodes well for the future of our campaign”

“I would like to thank the communities all over the Northern Rivers who stood up to be counted on Saturday and made the gathering such a spectacular success” Mr McNamara said.

Further information is available at the Northern Rivers Guardians website www.northernriversguardians.org.

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