



## Media Release

12/4/11

### *Community concern about Coal Seam Gas Mining*

Over 70 community members from the Tyalgum area gathered at Tyalgum Hall on Tuesday night to view the Academy Award nominated documentary *Gaslands*, which investigates the coal seam gas mining industry in the United States.

“The community is right to be concerned about the impact of this industry on the Tweed Valley” according to Northern Rivers Guardians spokesperson Michael McNamara.

“Coal seam gas mining has the potential to destroy the very industries that typify the Northern Rivers, agriculture and eco-tourism” he said.

“We are calling for a moratorium on coal seam gas mining until the industry can demonstrate that the process is safe and has no negative impacts on water quality and public health”

“Members of the community are right to be concerned about the potential impact on water quality in the Tweed Valley”

“This is especially so after hearing from residents of the Casino area on the night about their experiences with this industry”

“Initiatives such as the *Northern Rivers Food Links* and the *Murwillumbah Growers Markets* are definitely under threat if the state government gives the go ahead to this industry in the Tweed”

“Tweed Shire Council, as the water supply authority for the Tweed Shire, has a responsibility to the community to ensure the quality of water supplies”

“The Council should speak up loud and long on behalf of the local communities to ensure that water quality is paramount when the state government makes decisions about industrial activity in the Tweed”

Mr McNamara encouraged concerned community members to visit the Northern Rivers Guardians website at [www.northernriversguardians.org](http://www.northernriversguardians.org) for more information.

Further Information:

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