

Hi All,

It's been a bit of a bumpy ride for CSG Free Northern Rivers campaigners lately.

It's okay to feel flat for a day or so when the high of the Lismore CSG poll is so soon eclipsed by the low of the O'Farrell government's declaration of love for the CSG miners - but only for a day or so.

It's time to take a breath, think things through, and redirect our energies to where they are needed now.

As caring citizens, we believe in right and wrong and the fundamental decency of people. We naturally expect that when our politicians hear about the terrible effects of CSG mining they will do the right thing and act to protect our land and communities. So we have spent an enormous amount of energy writing letters and making submissions.

These are important things to do, but such actions make us vulnerable to disappointment when we are forced to realise that so many politicians and public servants are in the pockets of the mining companies.

The sooner we get over feeling shocked by the stupidity and corruption of politicians and the callousness of the mining industry, the better. We need to quickly let go of any grief we feel from being let down by politicians.

The mining corporations and their political toadies act as if they are at war with the Australian people. In war, any lie, deception, or despicable act becomes acceptable in pursuit of an objective. The miners and their politician mates fully understand the damage they will do; they just don't care about poisoning our water, soil, air and people. To them we are "hillbillies", "extremists", and "ferals" who deserve no consideration or compassion. They see the harm done to us and our communities as just "collateral damage", a cost that they are more than willing to pay to get to the gas and quick profits they seek.

The miners would like nothing more than for us to become despondent and to give up. Hartcher says that we will get used to living in coal seam gas fields, just like we got used to uranium mining.

To hell with that!

This is a time of great opportunity for the anti-CSG movement.

The NSW Government has finally shown its true colours. We can now free up much of the energy that has been devoted to letters and petitions to politicians.

The task is straightforward.

The CSG industry in Australia is in trouble; caught in a rapidly deteriorating international market for minerals and energy. Politicians might want to sell us the highest bidder, but they have to find someone who can afford the asking price.

The bottom line drives the CSG industry, and time is the key. Every delay costs money, makes investment riskier, and worries shareholders. The window of opportunity for the miners to make money here is very narrow and closing quickly.

Our job is to drive up the per unit cost of doing CSG business in the Northern Rivers.

Our focus needs to shift from beseeching politicians to thinking up ways in which we can add to the costs of establishing gasfields.

Be optimistic and determined.

This might be a “war” and the stakes are high, but this is not Syria or Guatamala or Britain in 1942.

Australia is a free and democratic country. We are the majority. We are entitled to voice our opinion. We will work peacefully to achieve what we believe to be right and proper.

Metgasco might have its production licence, but it is light years away from achieving its goal of turning the Northern Rivers into gas fields.

So, do we make Chris Hartcher’s day, roll over, and “get used to it”? I don’t think so.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne Somerville". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dr Wayne Somerville

Clinical Psychologist

Ph/Fax: 02 66333158

email: [waynes@bordernet.com.au](mailto:waynes@bordernet.com.au)