



Hello Guardians,

We hope that you will come along to [Lock The Gate's Annual Conference](#) and AGM in Lismore, NSW, on 19-20th October, to meet, laugh, learn and share in being part of Australia's fastest growing social movement. There will be skills workshops, panel discussions and wonderful, warm and inspirational people from across Australia. Come and hear from communities who have successfully defended their country from reckless mining projects. Don't miss out on this fantastic gathering, places are filling quickly – RSVP today [via our website](#). Billets are available for those from outside the region.

We hope you enjoy our October edition of the Lockdown! There are lots of events happening all around the country, so please join in.

[Take Action](#) | [Spotlight on Communities](#) | [Around the Nation](#) | [New Research and Reports](#)

[Upcoming Events](#) | [Open for Comment](#) | [In the News](#)



It will only take one minute to sign the [petition](#) to call for action on dangerous coal dust. By signing, you help support the exciting new coalition - Clean Air Queensland - who are calling for reforms to protect families and communities along the Coal Dust Corridor in South-east Queensland.

And while we're talking about health, the residents of Kogan in the Western Downs of Queensland are [asking for your help](#) to get some action on the 'black rain' that has been falling on their properties for the last couple of months. It seems to be coming from the adjoining Origin CSG field, but the authorities are so far refusing to do anything about it.



Glenugie farmers Donna and Mick Franklin have captured the imagination of people across the country with [their trail ride from the NSW Northern Rivers to Canberra](#) to protest the spread of CSG. The Franklins have put themselves on the line already defending their community, when a number of them were arrested bravely blocking Metgasco drilling operations in their area. Those on facebook can [follow](#) the Franklin's progress there by making friends with them. They're due in Canberra on 26 November. Good luck Franklins!

Three coal mines were in court last month thanks to the valiant efforts of community groups. The [Ashton Coal](#) mine near Camberwell in the Hunter Valley, the [Maules Ck](#) coal mine in north-west NSW and the [Alpha Coal Mine](#) in Central Qld. The cases include some very serious challenges on issues such as health, cultural heritage, and water. Stay tuned for more, and give them all the support you can as they go into battle against Goliath. Challenges like these become even more important, as the Abbott and Newman governments move closer to [handing over Federal powers](#) to the Qld Government.

New community groups are still emerging around the country. Groundswell Gloucester [launched](#) in the NSW town of Gloucester last week, and will have its hands full from the outset with the disastrous Rocky Hill open cut coal mine proposal, and the prospect that AGL may start work soon on their approved gas project. [A new group has also formed in Tasmania](#) - "Our Tasmania" is determined to contest proposals by South Australian based Petragas to start drilling for shale gas on important farmland.



Ian MacFarlane has had an appalling start as Industry Minister in the new federal Government. He is trying to fast-track CSG development, [bullying](#) the NSW government into loosening the limited CSG exclusions they've promised, and [labelling](#) landholders who dare to oppose CSG as 'lawbreakers' and 'anarchists'. However, when he addressed a crowd of farmers at Cecil Plains before the election, he was singing to a very different tune - see [footage](#) of that event here - where he promised farmers they would have the right to say 'no' to CSG under a Coalition government.

In some good news, the Federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt has [decided](#) to apply the new Federal water trigger to 47 coal and gas projects that were already submitted under the Federal environment laws. However, this is just the first step, and the [real test](#) of his resolve will be whether he requires further water studies on the projects and then finds the courage to reject mines that will have an unacceptable impact on water resources.

Meanwhile, the NSW Resources Minister, Chris Hartcher, is busy whipping up a fake gas crisis. He and Ian Macfarlane convened a bogus 'energy security' summit in Sydney, and [blocked entry](#) to farmers from affected communities who sought access. A quick look at the [facts](#) shows that there is no 'gas crisis' - Origin Energy [has just secured](#) 1/3 of NSW energy needs for the next 9 years from conventional gas reserves in Bass Strait; and the [only thing forcing up gas prices](#) is not lack of supply but the export industry which is sucking up gas to send offshore in the quest for big profits.



## New Research and Reports

[Unconventional Natural Gas Development and Infant Health: Evidence from Pennsylvania](#). Exposure prior to birth to unconventional natural gas development has adverse effects on infant health at birth for mother's residences within 2.5 km of a well head.

[National Pollutant Inventory 2011/2012](#). The NPI reports on chemical and particle emissions from facilities such as CSG fields and coal mines, with the 2011/2012 results now available. You can search the NPI to find results for any coal or gas field - eg see results for [Arrow Daandine Gasfield](#) in Qld and the [Ashton Coal Mine](#) at Camberwell, NSW.

[Draining the Lifeblood: Groundwater Impacts of Coal Mining in the Galilee Basin](#). An analysis of the cumulative impacts of 9 coal mines proposed for Central Qld which estimates that 2 1/2 'Sydney Harbours' of groundwater would be drained or pumped out during their operation.



## Upcoming Events

- 1 October: [Yeronga, Brisbane, Coal Dust in Our Communities Public Meeting](#)
- 1 October: [Torquay CSG Information Night](#)
- 3 October: [Amidale screening of \*Undermining Australia\*](#)
- 4-6 October: [Pilliga and Leard forest coal and gas tour](#)
- 8 October: [Denman screening of \*Fractured Country\* and \*Undermining Australia\*](#)
- 10 October: [Maffra screening of \*Fractured Country\* and \*Undermining Australia\*](#)
- 10 October: [Denman Public PAC Hearing, Drayton South Project](#)
- 12 October: [Tiaro screening of \*Fractured Country\* and \*Undermining Australia\*](#)
- 14 October: [Wynnum, Brisbane, Coal Dust in Our Communities, Public Meeting](#)
- 16 October: [Singleton Public Forum: Coal Wars - Booming or Busting Your Future](#)
- 19 October: [Grafton screening of \*Fractured Country\* and \*Undermining Australia\*](#)
- 19-20 October: [Lock the Gate Annual Conference and AGM, Lismore](#)**
- 20 October: [Lanitza screening of \*Fractured Country\* and \*Undermining Australia\*](#)
- 21-22 October: [No CSG Protest at East Coast Gas Conference](#)
- 25 October: [Canungra Film Screening and Concert with Paul Robert Burton](#)
- 26 October: [Tambourine Mountain Film Screening and Concert with Paul Robert Burton](#)
- 26 October: [Bauple screening of \*Fractured Country\* and \*Undermining Australia\*](#)
- 27 October: [Harmers Haven CSG Free Declaration, Sausage Sizzle and Live Music!](#)
- 31 October: [Brisbane screening of \*Undermining Australia\*](#)
- 31 October: [Warragul CSG Information Night](#)



**3 October:** Submissions due to the Planning Assessment Commission on the [Drayton South Coal Project](#) in the Hunter Valley.

**28 October:** Submissions due on the [Rocky Hill Coal Project Environmental Impact Statement](#). Use this [quick guide](#) to making a submission.

**28 October:** Submissions due on the [Preferred Project Report](#) for Newcastle's fourth coal terminal. Use this [quick guide](#) to making a submission.

**7 November:** Submissions due on [CSG pilot production](#) in the Pilliga. Click [here](#) to send an email direct to politicians about CSG in the Pilliga.

**15 November:** Submissions due on the National Water Initiative [2014 Triennial Assessment of water reform progress in Australia](#)



RN Breakfast: [Water Trigger Headaches for Coal and CSG Projects](#)

ABC TV: [Claims New Coal Mines Threaten Galilee Groundwater](#)

The Guardian: ['Mega-mines' in Qld's Galilee Basin Would Guzzle Water, Report Says](#)

The Land: [Courts Heat on Coal](#)

ABC Radio: [Coal Mines Threaten Basin Water: Report](#)

My Daily News: [Farmers Join Fight Against Massive Gine Rinehart Mine](#)

The Australian: [Study Stokes Farmers' Fear on Coalmines](#)

The Land: [Mines Court Challenge Begins](#)

ABC Radio: [Court Hears Alpha Coal Water Fears](#)

The Australian: [Burke's Hand Forced on Whitehaven Bids](#)

ABC Radio: [Maules Ck Coal Project in the Courts](#)

The Australian: [Whitehaven Maules Ck Coal Mine, Alpha Coalmine Face Legal Challenges](#)

ABC Radio: [Federal Govt Steps In to Speed Up CSG Drilling in NSW](#)

The Land: [Farmers Fear CSG Push](#)

The Australian: [Resources Minister Macfarlane Accused of CSG Backflip](#)

SMH: [NSW Govt to Wipe Out Coal Seam Gas and CSG Terminology from Documents](#)

The Australian: [NSW Govt Changing CSG to Bluff People: LTG](#)

Sky News: [Coal Seam Gas Will Leave NSW In A Mess](#)

ABC Radio: [Greg Hunt Orders Water Studies on 47 Projects](#)

The Land: [Hunt Applies Water Trigger](#)

The Land: [NICE Fights Whitehaven](#)

The Australian: [No Cash, but \\$100 Firm Gets Green Light on Gas](#)

The Australian: [Little Experience, Little Money, But the Gas Minnows Sure Have A Lot of Land](#)