

Media Release: Locals Support Fight to Stop Whitehaven Coal

Presented by 350.org Australia and the Lock the Gate Alliance

Tuesday 31st of December

Over the next week climate change group 350.org in collaboration with local Lock the Gate Alliance groups will be hosting information sessions about the blockade to stop Whitehaven Coal's Maules Creek Coal mine near Narrabri in North Western NSW.

The information sessions to be held in Lismore, Nimbin, Murwillumbah and Mullumbimby will feature presentations about the campaign, blockaders who have been to the camp sharing their stories and 350.org campaigner Ahri Tallon speaking about the importance of stopping this new coal mine.

Mr Tallon said that 'A month ago the valiant Northern Inland Council for the Environment lost its court challenge against the Federal approval for the Maules Creek coal mine and the Boggabri Coal expansion.'

Whitehaven Coal Ltd have since indicated that they are planning on starting construction of the new 14 million tonne per annum coal mine in early January despite the opposition of local indigenous elders, farmers and environmentalists.

'Now the only thing standing between Whitehaven Coal continuing on its path to damage the climate, the Leard State Forest and the Maules Creek community is people power. We need coal and gas activists from the Northern Rivers to support this important campaign at this critical time' said Mr Tallon.

'This campaign is a litmus test of the coal and gas movement ability to stand up to the power of the fossil fuel industry and peacefully stop the construction of what would be the biggest coal mine in Australia with direct action' said Mr Tallon.

'We are inviting the northern rivers community to come and find out how you can support the this campaign that is shaping up to be a watershed moment in Australia's battle to halt the expansion of mega coal mines across the country' said Mr Tallon.

A campaign is also underway to pressure the Australia New Zealand Bank (ANZ) to withdraw their financing of the Maules Creek Coal Mine expansion project. To find out more information about this go to www.marketforces.org.au

Event times and venues include:

- Nimbin at Birth & Beyond at 54 Cullen st from 6pm on Tuesday the 7th of January
- Lismore Workers Club from 6.30pm on Thursday the 9th of January
- Murwillumbah Red Cross Hall from 6pm on Friday the 10th of January

- here in murbah, there will be background info, frontline stories, live link-up with protector's camp, cuppas and food, and dance music with DJ Jayavinda

- Mullumbimby Civic Hall from 6pm on Saturday the 11th of January

For more information contact: Ahri Tallon 0423 515 941

Ahri Tallon

M: 0423 515 941

S: ahritallon

If there is no struggle, there is no progress- Franklin Douglas

Wherever we walk in Australia, we walk on Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander land.

