

I'm sure you are as outraged as me - jail and massive fines for protecting the land, water and communities.

It's a disgrace - please sign this petition and share widely.

There is also more info to read in the Media Release below:

Hi here is a petition to Premier Baird asking for protection of farmer's rights to oppose Coal and Gas mining without the threat of Jail and massive fines.

Please sign it and pass it on .

It's here: <http://www.lockthegate.org.au/>

On 14/03/2016 9:00 AM, Robyn & Simon Chance wrote:

Hi George , can you direct me to the petition to Premier regarding fascist governments draconian protest laws?

Simon

On 14/03/2016, at 6:10 AM, George Woods wrote:

Good morning folks,

The media release below has been sent out this morning, bringing Northern Rivers and North West farmers together to issue a challenge to the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party to not fail their first important test, and to vote down the Baird Government's heavy-handed new anti-protest laws.

The release is online here: <http://www.lockthegate.org.au/>

Yesterday arvo, we launched a petition to Mike Baird calling on him to withdraw the laws. We're more than halfway to our target of 5,000 signatures, and it would be great to get there by the time the Leewood vigil and Sydney rally begin on Tuesday morning.

Well done to everyone that has been calling and pressuring Baird and the SFP so far.

cheers

george

Media Release

14 March 2016

ALARM IN THE BUSH AS SHOOTERS PARTY SIGNAL INTENT TO VOTE FOR BAIRD CRACK-DOWN ON FARMERS

Landholders from the Northern Rivers and North-West NSW have described the laws introduced into NSW Parliament last week to crack-down on farmers who oppose CSG mining as the first big test of the recently re-badged Shooters, Fishers and 'Farmers' Party.

At this stage, the Shooters and Fishers have told farmers who have approached their office that they will vote for the law changes, raising alarm bells across the bush.

"These laws are a fundamental property right issue, because they mean that landholders like us can be arrested on our own properties and possibly jailed for up to 7-years for peacefully opposing CSG," said **Northern Rivers farmer, licensed shooter and member of the Sporting Shooters Association, Peter Nielsen.**

"We can't believe that a party that has just decided to call itself the 'farmers' party would hang landholders out to dry like this."

North-west peanut and potato farmer, Sarah Ciesolka, said:

"These laws crack down on public assemblies in our region and make farmers subject to invasive search powers without a warrant. This puts our basic freedoms on our properties and in our regions at risk in ways which we could never have imagined.

"A CSG company will be penalised far less for endangering land and water than I would be for protecting the very same land and water that my family depends on for their life and livelihood.

"This is brutally anti-democratic in a region like ours, where comprehensive community surveys have found that 96% of landholders across 3 million hectares of land overwhelmingly reject plans for CSG gasfields.

"If the Shooters Party votes to criminalise us while we move around our own properties, then it will be fatal to their aspirations in the bush.

"This is a test as to whether the Shooters Party will be a voice for farmers and landholders, or whether they are just a rubber stamp for the NSW Government and their CSG agenda in the Upper House of Parliament" she said.

Northern Rivers farmer, licensed shooter and member of the Sporting Shooters Association, Peter Nielsen, said that:

"We believe these new laws will also have far-reaching repercussions for the rights of hunters operating on farms in NSW.

"It means that operating gasfields will effectively become off-limits to hunting, because of the risks that they could be accused of hindering operations.

"Hunters will also become subject to random search and seize powers that would make a regular day out a very difficult process indeed.

"We're calling on the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party to live up to their new name, and to vote these laws down in the Upper House" he said.

Further comment:

Peter Nielsen - 0417 324649

Sarah Ciesolka - 0439 551116