

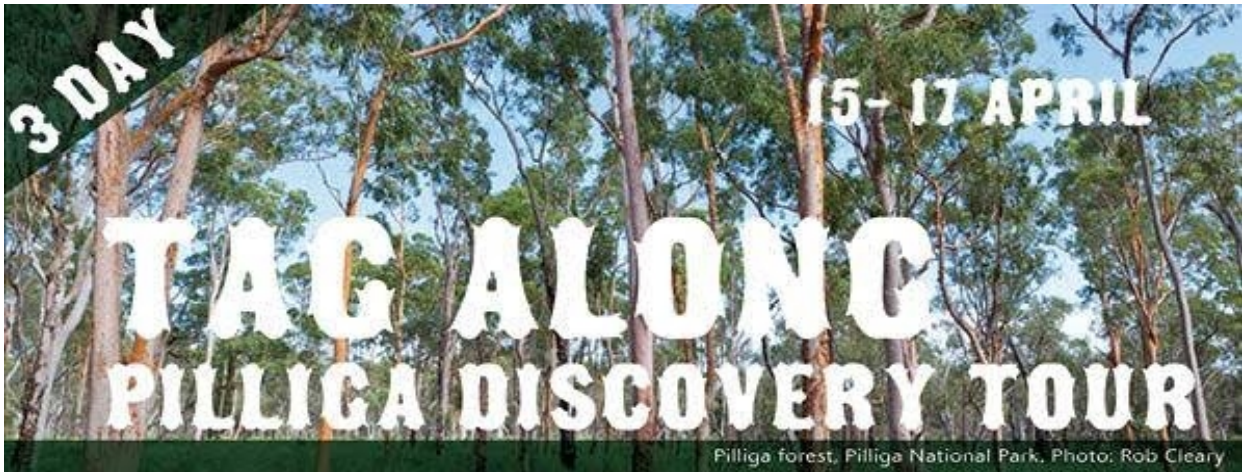
Dear NR Guardians..

At our March meeting NRG decided to postpone the April meeting from 16th to **Saturday 23rd** so that Daniele and I can attend. We will be in the Pillaga for the week which includes the 3rd Saturday so the meeting has been moved to the 4th Saturday, 1 to 3 PM as usual at Mavis Kitchen. Meeting will go back to usual 3rd Saturday in May. Members **please note this change for this month only.**

I hope no one will be inconvenienced. get agenda items to Sledge by Friday morning 22 April.

Regards,  
Sledge  
President

**If you would like to join or find out more about the Pilliga Push Tour:**



## TRAVEL WITH US TO DISCOVER THE SITES AND DELIGHTS OF THE PILLIGA & LEARD FOREST

Stay at the Pilliga Camp Witness the destruction of inappropriate mining



### CONTACT

John Simpson - 0418 289 896

Lisa Costello - 0439 261 055

ITINEARY CAN CHANGE TO SUIT PARTICIPANTS  
BRING ENOUGH FOOD SNACKS, DRINKING  
WATER for 3 DAYS, WARM CLOTHES,  
CAMPING GEAR, BEDDING, CAMERA/VIDEO,  
DONATIONS to PILLIGA CAMP FOR MEALS

### DAY 1

**Day option - Sliding Springs Observatory**

**6pm**

Meet at Pilliga Hot Bore Baths

Dinner @ Pilliga Pub

### DAY 2

*Bring packed picnic lunch plenty of water & snacks*

**8.30am**

Visit Pilliga Forest Discovery Centre

**11.30am**

Dandry Gorge Sculpture in the scrub walk and lunch

**3pm**

Set-up tents at Pilliga Camp

Meet the Protectors

Help with communal dinner

### DAY 3

*Bring packed picnic lunch plenty of water & snacks*

**8.30am**

Coal seam gas field tour and production wells and Bohena 7 spill site and Leewood Water treatment plant

**Lunch option - Leard Forest**

Contacts:

John Simpson 0418 289 896

Lisa Costello 0439 261 055

Here's my draft submission.

Pls advise any changes or additions you think appropriate. Thanks,  
Sledge

Submission re Nimbin "Cubes" Development Application No. 5.2015.170.1  
DP 852412 lot 310, DP 1026562 lot 4, DP 1026562 lot 3, 78 Cullen Street NIMBIN, 80  
Cullen Street NIMBIN, 82 Cullen Street NIMBIN

By Scott Sledge

50 Gabal Road Lillian Rock NSW 2480

I have been involved with Nimbin since purchasing land nearby in 1979. I have been an officer of the Nimbin Community Development ASSOCIATION and served on the Nimbin Community Centre Management Committee for many years.

I submit that the Regular monthly meeting of the **Northern Rivers Guardians, Inc.** on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2016 did **resolve** that I should write to Council on behalf of our 600 + members to say that we find the Cubes development to be inappropriate for the village of Nimbin and we oppose it.

**No Social Licence** : We have concerns about the proposal to allow a motel in the centre of Nimbin village. This has not been approved by any of the community consultation which resulted in planning documents such as the Nimbin LEP. The cooperation of the local community will be essential for any successful venture so we submit that visual and social impacts should be considered when making decisions around future developments. It is not good enough to say the developer should manage his own risks. Inappropriate development puts at risk the future of our village and all who normally enjoy it.

**Adverse effects on existing businesses and residents** : There may be an argument to say visitors could want to stay longer if more accommodation is available, but there is currently unused accommodation in the village environs which is more compatible with Nimbin lifestyles and less expensive than the \$99 /nite /unit proposed by the Cubes developers.

Proposed tiny boxes requiring air-conditioning the units will not be ecologically sustainable and will be a travesty of what our village values. The proponents have put their case for favourable treatment by Council wrapped in deceptive language that plays on the rightful reputation of our village and regions for being innovative, progressive and ecological.

When the spin is stripped back we see gross opportunism by outsiders who beg for concessions which Council does not /has not afforded to long-term local businesses and community associations. If Council is going to go "easy" then let it start with locals.

To say tiny pre-fab boxes will provide a cheap hospitality option defies logic. Why would a backpacker pay \$99 /nite for an air-conditioned box when more pleasant accommodation is available already at lesser costs? Except for January and around Mardi Grass time existing Nimbin accommodation is rarely full. The room plans for The Cubes indicate the units would be so small a guest would need to close the door to the toilet to use the wash basin ! The only advantage for The Cubes would be their central location: however the Hotel offers backpacker rooms there already.

**MOTEL in the town centre**: Probably the "budget " tourists will bring their cars. That would make this a motel.

I suspect the developers' motive in calling this *backpackers accommodation* is to argue

less car parking spaces to be required on the premises. And certainly the line-marking idea is audacious: we the residents and ratepayers have already paid for the paving of the Western carpark ! Line marking will not add any more parking space, but the Cubes will use existing parking space not only in the Western carpark but along Cullen Street, which is already in short supply.

**Traffic hazzards** : Some clients staying at the Cubes will park in the Community Centre next to the public toilets, which will further complicate access by those attending the Community Centre, Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre and the public toilets. Entrance /egress off Cullen Street for the Cubes will add to congestion and danger to other vehicles and pedestrians in this high traffic area.

We see no benefit to members of the public or existing businesses in Nimbin village apart from vague promises of longer visitor stays, which is yet to be proven and in fact is highly dubious given the mean space allowed for each unit and the noise of close tenancy and 26 or more air conditioning units. And how will that serve to inform visitors how we as locals want to live sustainably and at peace with nature?

We submit that a traffic management study should be paid for by the developer, but selected and commissioned by Council to ensure an independent result.

We further submit that the developer be required to have on-site parking adequate for all units and staff to avoid further stress on the tight parking situation in the vicinity of this property.

Please consider our submission that The Cubes is inconsistent with the character of Nimbin village. It could be appropriate on the village outskirts or some other location, but not where proposed.

Sincerely,  
Scott Sledge  
President  
Northern Rivers Guardians, Inc  
2nd April 2016

Dear members,

Thank you for electing to participate in the NCC group insurance scheme for 2016-17. Some information about the newly negotiated policies and premium is attached. Please take the time to read it and circulate the Important Information document to your members so they are fully informed about the inclusions and limits of coverage.

You should expect to receive an invoice for your 2016-17 premium soon. After it is paid I am able to distribute the Certificates of Insurance.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns about the insurance coverage for the upcoming year.

Thanks again for participating in the scheme and helping to make subsidised insurance available for all our members.

Regards,  
Queene

**Queene Ostria**  
**Accounts & Administration Officer**  
**Nature Conservation Council of NSW**  
w: (02) 9516 1488 | e: [outreach@nature.org.au](mailto:outreach@nature.org.au)

Dear Train enthusiasts,

Tweed council is currently supporting a rail trail proposal on the railway line between Murwillumbah and Crabbes Creek. The Northern Rivers Railway Action Group and TOOT are meeting together at Murwillumbah railway station on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 2pm to advocate to reinstate the Casino to Murwillumbah railway service as a regular commuter service and extend the railway to the Gold Coast, approx. 25 kms. Alina Rylko from the Tweed Daily News will be there to write a story on this issue for the Federal Election. We are asking for Federal funding to connect the NSW Northern region with Southern Qld by railway.

State governments for decades in NSW have consistently put money into roads instead of railways and traffic congestion, road accidents, carbon emissions and air pollution have increased hugely. People who don't have cars or who can't drive are unable to get health, education, social and employment needs met.

The Nationals and Labor show no interest in providing a railway service for this area. Donations made to both parties over the years show that many come from trucking companies, oil companies, car and road construction companies. For over a hundred years there's been discussion about having a railway that connects us to Southern Qld. The North Coast would benefit from having regular, accessible railway services to the Gold Coast for health, employment, social needs and tourism. Please come along and tell us why you want to catch a train to the Gold Coast. Help us to show that our community wants this.

Give me a call if you want to carpool on 0423 030 346.

Warm regards,  
Beth Shelley  
Secretary of NRRAG



## Questions about using Police against environmental activists.

By Scott Sledge

50 Gabal Road Lillian Rock NSW 2480 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016 Ph. 0266 897 466

What sort of society turns the Police to attack those who would ensure a sustainable future for all? How do we live on our unique planet in a way that creates the greatest good for the greatest number? Why do we allow vested interests such as mining companies to buy influence so they control what governments do?

\$5500 is the new (maximum) penalty for trespass on mine sites in NSW. The definition of a mine now includes any land subject to CSG exploration. To drill or mine without a license has been reduced from \$1.1 M to \$5000. Illegal mining is now less expensive than protesting! Is that a bad joke?! Also, police can order people to “move on “ even from private property and not return for 72 hours.

Obviously the mining companies got government action in exchange for campaign donations. To buy such favour in a democracy is quite simply corrupt.

What was the big hurry that the NSW government changed its long-established procedures for scrutiny and debate of newly proposed legislation to rush the “SANTOS laws” through both Houses in a single day? Was there an emergency? NSW locked by a general strike? No. SANTOS wanted the Gamillaroy people local farmers and their allied Knitting Nannas out of the way of their CSG project in the Pillaga forest. Whitehaven Coal company wanted help with protestors locking on to equipment needed to destroy the unique Leards Forest.

If a company destroys public property (such as forests and aquifers) in its greedy quest for private profit, should we not applaud the volunteer citizens who sacrifice their time and comforts to stand in the way of such destruction long enough to for the bright lights of truth to show what the real environmental vandals are doing in the dark?

The media often shows the world what is at stake and that embarrasses the govt who feel obliged to protect companies who donate to their election campaigns. Governments call non-violent protectors names like “eco-fascists.” And expose them pay huge fines hoping they won't dare oppose/expose the dirty doings of a corrupt system. It seems like those who would damage/destroy the world for short-term profit are favoured over those who would preserve it for us all. Who, then, are the “fascists”? Who uses the police to enforce mining by martial law?

When non-violence is “bad” and results in repression and “pain compliance” by police then good values are reversed, that is to say, skewed – or is that too polite a word? Do we have to accept corruption as the “new normal?” No. We can vote for candidates/parties who renounce corporate donations. Could we try publicly-funded campaign info only?

Dear Minister,

Make no mistake : what happens to the koalas will happen to humans. **You** can save them. Please do it!

Section 10 (the Broadwater to Coolgardie section) has been opposed by local residents and conservation groups for over 10 years. The proposed deviation will **add** 2.8 km to the existing highway and split Ballina's most important wildlife corridor in two. This area is home to more than 38 threatened or endangered species.

Sincerely,

Scott Sledge

President

Northern Rivers Guardians, Inc

PO Box 309

Murwillumbah NSW

25 March 2016

Hi Sam,

Lovely chatting today, despite the unfortunate reason for my call.

Below is some suggested text to send to your supporters, along with a link to the petition. Also, with respect to meeting with your MP to discuss the issue, NCC has created a guide: <http://www.nature.org.au/> . I will send some background memoranda by separate email.

Subject: Stop Baird's War on Trees

The Baird Government is just weeks away from scrapping the laws that protect trees and bushland across NSW and replacing them with a watered down law that threatens to bring bulldozers back to NSW threatened environment.

Environment groups have formed a new Stand Up For Nature alliance and urgent petition to Premier Baird to push back against the scrapping of nature laws.

[Please sign the important petition online now](#) and share it with your friends on [Facebook](#). We're using the hashtag #StandUpForNature



Land clearing is the number one threat to many precious animals at risk from extinction in NSW. You can be their voice and call upon Premier Baird to end his war on trees.

[Please sign and share this urgent petition](#) - our wildlife needs your voice.

Thank you again for your support on this campaign. Please let me know if there is any other information I can provide.

Best

Julie

Dear NR Guardians

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**

### **A few questions about using Police against environmental activists.**

By Scott Sledge

50 Gabal Road Lillian Rock NSW 2480 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016 Ph. 0266 897 466

What sort of society turns the Police to attack those who would ensure a sustainable future for all? How do we live on our unique planet in a way that creates the greatest good for the greatest number? Why do we allow vested interest such as mining companies to buy influence so they control what governments do? \$5000 for trespass is proposed for mine sites in NSW? Is that a bad joke?!

If a company destroys common property (such as forests and aquifers) in its greedy quest for private profit, should we not applaud the volunteer citizens who sacrifice their time and comforts to stand in the way of such destruction long enough to for the bright lights of truth to show what the environmental vandals are doing in the dark? The media often shows the world what is at stake and that embarrasses the govt who feel obliged to protect the companies who donate to their election campaigns. Governments call them names like “eco-fascists.” And make them pay huge fines so that they won’t dare oppose/expose the dirty doings of a corrupt system. It seems like those who would damage/destroy the world for short-term profit are favoured over those who would preserve it for us all. So, who are the “fascists”? Who uses the police to enforce mining by martial law?

When non-violence is “bad” and results in repression and “pain compliance” by police then good values are reversed , that is to say , skewed – or is that too polite a word?

ew post on <http://jeremybuckingham.org>



## Seven years jail for mine protesters under Mike Baird's new laws

by [maxphillips](#)

### **MEDIA RELEASE - 10 March 2016**

The Greens NSW Mining Spokesperson Jeremy Buckingham today said it was outrageous that the NSW Government's *Inclosed Lands, Crimes and Law Enforcement Legislation Amendment (Interference) Bill 2016* currently before the parliament will change the definition of a mine site so that peaceful protesters against coal and coal seam gas will face jail sentences of up to seven years for simply expressing their democratic rights.

[Section 201](#) of the *Crimes Act 1900* was originally intended to stop serious acts of industrial sabotage by protesting mine workers in the 1980s, but the Bill before parliament expands the definition to encompass coal seam gas sites and construction sites after the courts ruled that protesters trying to stop the construction of Maules Creek coal mine could not be prosecuted under this section as it was a construction site, not a mine.

“Under these draconian laws, Wallabies Captain David Pocock and scores of ‘Knitting nannas’ could be thrown in jail for years simply for standing up for what they feel is important,” said Greens MP Jeremy Buckingham.

“This section of the law is intended for serious acts of sabotage. It is wrong to apply this section to someone exercising their democratic rights by standing in front of a mining truck, or trespassing with a bike lock and a banner against coal or coal seam gas.

“The government is intimidating protesters with threats of long jail terms to please their mates running the big mining and gas companies.

“Mike Baird should recognise that the significant movement by farmers and others against coal seam gas and coal in NSW is an issue requiring a political solution, not one that will be solved by police arresting protesters and throwing them in jail or issuing crippling fines.”

[maxphillips](#) | March 10, 2016 at 5:26 pm | Tags: [Coal Mining](#), [Coal seam gas](#), [Fracking](#), [slider](#) | Categories: [Media](#), [Mining](#) | URL: <http://wp.me/p4Hjr0-16L>

Comment

[See all comments](#)

Dear NR Guardians..

It seems incredible we have to fight for this... but it looks like we do!  
Please sign and share widely!!

Hi

The Baird Government is introducing harsh new laws and penalties to crush peaceful protest against Santos' dangerous coal seam gas project in Narrabri, while at the same time helping the CSG giant avoid massive penalties.

Since 2010, Santos has donated \$568,857 to the LNP.<sup>1</sup> Now, they have a suite of new laws to make their life easier. This is the toxic influence of mining companies over our politicians at its very worst.

[Sign the petition against these outrageous law changes.](#)

The NSW State Government is increasing the current penalty for protesting at CSG sites by more than *ten times*, from \$500 to \$5500.

At the same time they've introduced a pathetic new penalty regime for CSG companies that could see companies fined just \$5000 for drilling without approval.<sup>2</sup> Before now, a court could prosecute companies *up to \$1.1 million*. **At \$5000, CSG companies like Santos can now be fined less for endangering our land and water than we could be for trying to protect it.**

And it gets worse -- these new laws would also restrict the right to free assembly -- giving police extra powers to move people on. Even if they are on public land.<sup>3</sup>

It's no coincidence that these laws are being introduced now just as pressure mounts on Santos to abandon the last CSG project standing in NSW -- the Narrabri gas project, in the heart of the beautiful Pilliga forest.

[Click here to sign the petition against these undemocratic law changes.](#)

For too long mining companies have been able to purchase power, holding disproportionate influence over our government, and we've had enough.

Civil rights shouldn't be sold to the highest bidder.

[Click here to say no to Mike Baird's Santos laws.](#)

Adam and Sam R, for the GetUp team

#### References

[1] [\*AEC Political Donations\*](#)

[2] *Smaller penalties for CSG companies amid crack down on protesters*, Sydney Morning Herald, 7 March 2016

[3] *EXPLAINER: Mike Baird's Anti-Protest Laws – What Are They And Who Hates Them*, New Matilda, 7 March 2016

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GetUp is an independent, not-for-profit community campaigning group. We use new technology to empower Australians to have their say on important national issues. We receive no political party or government funding, and every campaign we run is entirely supported by voluntary donations. If you'd like to contribute to help fund GetUp's work, please [donate now!](#) To unsubscribe from GetUp, please click [here](#).

**Our team acknowledges that we meet and work on the land of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. We wish to pay respect to their Elders - past, present and future - and acknowledge the important role all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to play within Australia and the GetUp community.**