

Thanks George. I think you did really well. The government can rightly expect praise when it finishes the job. The Plan should be amended to state that fossil fuel mining has no future in the NR unless a social license can be established and the region is far from convinced with more than 90% strongly opposed. I believe such wording along with a statement that the NSW govt has cancelled the licenses and abolished the right to prospect for CSG in our region would be the right approach. If the govt is sincere they should acknowledge all that , rather than simply remove all reference...yes?

Sledger

On 20/04/2016 7:21 AM, George Woods wrote:

Hello folks,

I got a call yesterday afternoon from Liz Devlin, Deputy Secretary of Growth, Design and Programs at the Dept of Planning asking about your protest, which indicates that you definitely had an impact.

She wanted to know why people were protesting. Do they think that having the resource maps in the plan is an indication that the Govt intends to develop CSG on the north coast? Because she can assure us there are no such plans. She was quite nice, and wanted to clarify if this was all a misunderstanding they could explain away.

I said that there was no misunderstanding, and in fact, we greatly appreciated the honesty of including a CSG resource map in the plan, because it reflected what everyone in the NR knows: until there is statutory protection that prevents new exploration licences from being issued, the area is always under threat that this might happen again, and all the current Govt's good work in buying back the licences would be undone.

This is not something that can be done by the team that wrote the North Coast plan, of course. I didn't really want to send the message that they should hide such details in the future, so as to not alarm people that mining development might be on the cards, so I said we appreciated it being frankly on the table, and that protests are a good thing for Government, because they let them know what lines should not be crossed. If they want the protests to stop, they should make the Northern Rivers gasfield free permanently.

hopefully that expressed well enough the point you were trying to make.

warmly

george

19/04/2016 8:18 AM, R & R Joseph wrote:

Thanks Elly, that is a really excellent and strong release and gets both our points across.

Cheers Rosemary

From: [Elly Bird](#)

Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 7:16 AM

To: [Google group](#)

Subject: [Regional Alliance] Media Release - GFNR calls for action from planning dept.

Good morning all.. our release has just gone out.. and there is an action up at council offices this morning at 11am for those who can make it - please try if you can.

cheers
Elly

Gasfield Free Northern Rivers demand action from the Planning Department.

Concerned residents of the Northern Rivers are gathering today at Council Chambers as the NSW Planning Department arrives in Lismore to brief the Lismore City Council on the Draft North Coast Regional Plan.

“The people of Lismore, Casino, Kyogle and surrounds have been left out of briefings and it's just not good enough, so we are here today to send our message to the planning department.

“They should be offering a community briefing in Lismore so that we can clearly send our message to Minister Stokes and Premier Baird, that this regional plan must be amended to remove the references to CSG that it currently includes.” said Dean Draper, spokesperson for Gasfield Free Northern Rivers.

“As well as this removal we are demanding that the plan clearly spells out that there will be no unconventional gas exploration at all for the life of the plan. We want it made very clear that the Northern Rivers is a no-go zone for unconventional gas.

“We applauded the Baird government for their actions earlier this year, buying back the licences covering our region, and we want to see them stay the course. We want a government that reinforces its actions in writing, and what better place to put their intentions to protect the Northern Rivers than the Regional Plan for the North Coast.

“We're currently seeing an influx of Labor politicians, who are here to woo the people of the Northern Rivers. They clearly know what we want and are here seeking our votes. This NSW government, and the National Party risk losing the people of the Northern Rivers forever if they don't thoroughly follow through with complete protection for our region.

“Promises must be put in to action, the government must make it crystal clear what their intentions are for our region. If this government thinks that we will not remain vigilant then they are in for a rude awakening. We are resolute, determined and ever-watchful for any threat to our region.” he said.

For Comment :

Dean Draper

0423 753 748
