

TARRAWONGA COAL MINE EXTENSION APPROVED

The Department of Planning has recommended that the Tarrawonga Coal mine expansion is approved despite serious issues with the mine and its preferred project plan.

The open cut mine project plan includes the re-routing of Goonbri Creek, an important source of ground water for the Boggabri Township, further impacting Leard State Forest and leaving a 55 Ha Toxic groundwater sump rather than fully remediating the site.

This is a typical project plan from Whitehaven. Like the nearby Maules Creek project, Whitehaven plan to leave a giant hole in the ground to fill with heavy metals and toxic ground water over the coming centuries.

PAC Meeting at Boggabri Golf Club – Friday 14.12.2012 9.30 AM, Commissioners, Gabrielle Kibble, Joe Woodward and Brian Gilligan presiding. [Read more.](#)

MAULES CREEK COAL AND KOALAS

From the scientific perspective, it is clear that a Federal nod to this coal mine will destroy a key local habitat and wipe out the koala population. In a recent ABC TV report ecologist David Paul said “Leard Forest is a hotspot for biodiversity- and its going to be transferred into a dead zone.”

Koalas in NSW, ACT and Queensland have been [listed as a threatened population](#) under federal legislation.

However, the report also said that koala won't be considered by Federal Environment minister Tony Burke because the species wasn't listed until after the mine was proposed.

Conrad Bolton, Narrabri mayor is very supportive of the mine as he said it would make “1.5 billion export dollars by 2020”. [Watch here.](#)

ANZ IS PROVIDING FINANCE OF \$1.2 BILLION TO WHITEHAVEN COAL

There is currently an education campaign you can take part in to let ANZ know that you do not agree they should lend to Whitehaven and thus provide the funds for the company to destroy the local koalas and Leard Forest. [Send a message here.](#)



Boggabri Coal Train Derailment - Rail line out of action.

RAIL LINE BLOCKED AT BOGGABRI

28 November 2012

A Pacific National coal train derailed at Boggabri's Cox's Creek bridge damaging the rail line. Several carriages derailed and caught fire just before three o'clock in the afternoon. [Read More.](#)

6 December 2012 Rail Bridges aren't designed to carry weight.

MCCC have been told that the rail bridges were never made for the quantity of traffic or for the weight of the traffic.

6 December 2012 Whitehaven applies for Temporary Approval to Truck Coal

“[Whitehaven's Trucking Campaign](#)” is an application to NSW State Government to cart 80,000 tonnes of coal with 59 trucks on the roads per week.

Coal will be carted from Narrabri underground to Gunnedah washery via Kamilaroi Hwy. This will mean 420 return journeys/day- 5,040 truck movements per week.

They will be carting the coal for the estimated 12 weeks that it will take to repair the damage over the Christmas period adding significant risk for the travelling public.

11 December 2012,

No Whitehaven ASX Press Release??- However, Narrabri Council General Manager Pat White told ABC Radio that Whitehaven has started a 9 B-double truck, 2,500 tonnes/day trial of its coal between Narrabri and Gunnedah. [Radio Report.](#)

FARMERS SEE RED OVER GOVERNMENT'S CSG "FARCE"
"FARCICAL" is how the NSW Farmers Association has labelled the NSW Government's attempts to protect agricultural land from the mining and coal seam gas industries.

The government yesterday released what it described as stringent new laws to protect agricultural land.

"There appears to be nothing this government won't do to break its election commitments on mining and coal seam gas," said NSW Farmers' CEO Matt Brand. [Read More.](#)

DIRTIER THAN COAL?

Researchers at Southern Cross University have used a specialised measuring device and recorded elevated levels of methane in the air above the Tara gasfield in Queensland. Below is a graphic which shows what the coal seam gas mining industry claims is happening and what is actually happening.

The results suggested that Methane gas (which is 21 times more powerful a greenhouse gas than Carbon Dioxide) leaking out from these gas fields is much higher than previously thought and if accurately assessed, impacts from these projects would make CSG potentially dirtier than coal!

[Stop CSG expansion.](#) Contact Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Greg Combet.

THE TARA EXPERIENCE - A CSG COMMUNITY WITH IMPACTS

This [short 2 to 3 min film](#) featuring Brian Monk from the Tara Estates highlights all that is wrong with CSG, particularly after wells were fracked in the area.

NSW ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS' OFFICE HAS FUNDING CUT

The New South Wales Environmental Defenders' Office has been told its funding will be reduced from \$420,000 to \$300,000 for the three months from January 1, 2013. [View NSW 7.30 Report story.](#)

The organisation provides free legal advice to community groups and farmers on environmental law issues, and mounts legal challenges it considers to be in the public interest.

10 December 2012

The EDO published a 128pg [Mining Law in New South Wales: A guide for the community](#) downloadable book. It is a plain-English guide to the laws on mining in NSW, focused on the coal and coal seam gas (CSG) sectors.

To look at this and other downloadable information from the EDO [click here.](#)

NSW PLANNING MINISTER DEFENDS DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

Quentin Dempster talks to Planning Minister Brad Hazzard about NSW planning issues around Coal Seam Gas, mining and water protection. [View.](#)

CALL TO ACTION - THE TIME IS NOW

Watch Chris Hartcher passionately defending land and water in 2005 and then change his mind in 2012 in this [Northern River's video.](#)

TINKLER- A RIGHT WALLY
WHERE is Nathan Tinkler? Normally a stand-out in any crowd, the Newcastle miner is proving harder to spot than Wally, the star of the Where's Wally? series of picture books.

Tinkler's empire is under financial siege, with receivers of his company TGHA Aviation seizing his private jet and helicopter, his Patinack Farm horse-racing empire struggling to pay for feed and his private vehicle Mulsanne Resources in liquidation. [Read more.](#)

And now a \$2.7 million debt has the Tax Office moving to wind up Tinkler's Newcastle Knights and Jets. [Read more](#)



NOTICE

A PERSON'S COMMON LAW RIGHT TO ENTER IS EXPRESSLY WITHDRAWN

ADMITTANCE BY INVITATION ONLY TO ALL PERSONS & ENTITIES

OTHERWISE TRESPASS APPLIES

HGA 1991 171 CLR 635 F.C. 91/004



lockthegate.org.au

28 NOVEMBER 2012 - MARTIN PLACE, SYDNEY NOT HAPPY BARRY RALLY

Protesters rallied against the O'Farrell Government's disregard of environmental protection in NSW. Amongst the 12 issues were the approving of the Maules Creek Mine, opening the doors for CSG exploration and prioritising coal instead of water.

Speaker Drew Hutton from Lock the Gates Alliance said "you've got to stop talking to yourselves. You've got to start talking to other people in the community. You've got to get mobilized. You've got to talk to people you have never talked to before...."

"Ghandi once said that 100,000 English men can't control 400 million Indians if those 400 million don't want to be controlled.

"That is the same situation we have got in NSW. Chris Hartcher can issue as many coal seam gas licences as he likes, he give mates coal exploration licences as many as he likes but the can't get onto that land and neither can the companies because those gates are locked and the landowners are keeping them locked....."

"And the communities are coming in behind those landowner and giving them support.

"In the Northern Rivers, 87% of the people of the Lismore Local Authority area have voted no to coal seam gas.

"Everyone of the councils in these areas whether you are talking about Hunter, Northern Rivers, Southern Highlands, Councils are coming together supporting their communities, supporting their landowners and saying NO, ENOUGH IS ENOUGH. ..."

"This is a people's movement like nothing we have seen before. It is bringing together people that have never worked together before....it's everybody.... [View more.](#)

FACING OUR LIMIT

[Ian Dunlop](#)- ex-senior oil, gas and coal industry executive is a Centre for Policy Development (CDP) Fellow. Appearing on ABC's *The Drum*, deconstructed Greg Combet's 30 November 2012 ANU speech saying the "rhetoric is there.... but the problem is the total misalignment between policy and the real implications of the science...."

"Current political thinking on an emission reduction of 5 per cent by 2020, possibly 25 per cent if the rest of the world behave themselves, is laughable; it is high time we faced up to reality and stopped playing political games.

Quite apart from the risks to which we are exposed, Australia is rapidly falling behind other countries in the race to develop a low-carbon economy. It is no longer a question of losing competitiveness because we are taking action, but rather because we are not."

[Read his chapter "Facing our Limit"](#) in the CDP think tank's book *More than Luck*.

WHITEHAVEN OPENED BY EDDIE OBEID

Funny the things that come to light. This mine was opened 2 years prior to the awarding of the coal exploration leases at MT Penny that relate to the current ICAC investigations and subsequent scandal. [Read More.](#)



MINISTER HAZZARD IN LISMORE

5 December 2012- Hazzard's 2012 work in government has not been valued by a National's organized CSG information Forum in Lismore. Protesters called the government's actions "shameful" and turned their backs on the speakers. "It feels very much like we have been told to accept a dictatorship that we do not want," one local said. [Watch Prime News coverage.](#)

THREE GUNNEDAH CHURCH LEADERS CALL FOR PROTECTION OF FARMLAND FROM MINING

Three church leaders in Gunnedah have expressed "grave concern about the impact of some proposed mining activity on productive agricultural land and environmentally significant areas."

In a joint statement the Religious ministers reminded the community that Christian tradition includes "caring for creation", and an awareness of humankind's duty to provide wise stewardship of the earth, and that "respect for nature and ecological responsibility are key parts of our faith." [Read More.](#)

WARNING: COAL SEAM GAS

You may be aware that a coal seam gas (CSG) company has recently approached a land holder in this area offering a financial inducement to allow the company to drill for CSG on their land. The land holder did not agree. In the event you are approached you may find the following helpful.

If a CSG company seeks access to your land you should proceed with the utmost caution.

Check with your insurance company if your policies would cover gas drilling.... [Read More.](#)

NAMOI COMMUNITY NETWORK LETTER TO THE EDITOR RE SANTOS

The Editor
Northern Daily Leader
Dear Sir, Your readers by now would be well aware Santos removed some of their misleading advertisements that were shown on electronic media, but may not know of the ongoing similar deception practiced by Santos in print media as well. [Read More.](#)

I WAS ONLY FOLLOWING ORDERS

Climate Change Scientists have put us on a "war footing" as the climate conference in Doha that winds up this weekend confirmed that climate change is tracking well above the worst case scenarios developed less than a decade ago.

Among the impacts of sea level rise, drought and extreme weather, IPCC modeling predicts that 40-70% of all species on the planet will become extinct as the average temperature increase exceeds 3.5 degrees.

It is morally indefensible to continue down the current path.

Doha shows that it is insufficient for our corporate and political leaders to claim metaphorically that "they were only following orders" from their shareholders or party factional leaders.

It is clear that all individuals including the institutional investor and the lowly backbencher must take personal responsibility for their actions and non-actions regarding our climate. [Read More.](#)



COAL MINE IS COMPLETELY WRONG

Firewood removal prohibited but wholesale destruction is fine.

The concept of State Forest in NSW rivals the disgraceful Clean Air and Clean Water Act in the US. The title being a parody of the real intent of the legislation. [Read More.](#)



The Maules Creek Community Council (MCCC) was formed on the 25th of July 2010 at a community meeting to address the concerns of residents regarding the coal and gas developments in the local area. The Maules Creek Community Council (MCCC) was formed on the 25th of July 2010 at a community meeting to address the concerns of residents regarding the coal and gas developments in the local area.

NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN THE DOTS

15 November 2012

Things are starting to go wrong for coal and gas. A slump in commodities prices has taken the heat out of the market sparking mine closures and project delays. Now the information flow has turned decidedly negative.

New reports into the science, the economics and the corrupt politics emerge daily and although the NSW government has its head in the sand, cracks are beginning to show.

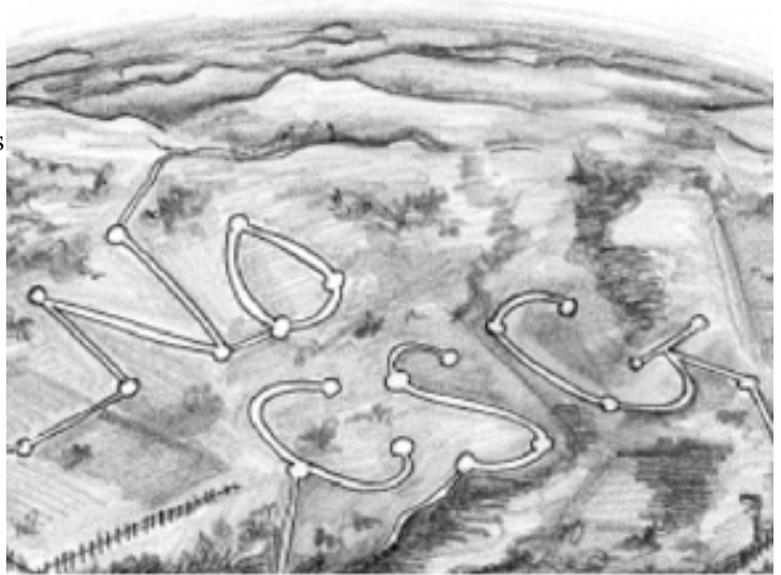
This week three major reports into the impacts of coal and gas mining have been released and this is on the back of the ongoing ICAC inquiry and the earlier [report into Coal Harms](#) from the University of Sydney.

The Sydney Uni report is still causing shockwaves in the Hunter Valley as Federal Politicians are coming out in favor of a Parliamentary Inquiry into the health impacts from coal.

On Tuesday the report by Prof John Williams entitled the [Analysis of CSG Production and Natural Resource Management](#) said that “it is clear that potential impacts on water resources are significant” and these impacts “require very careful attention, and merit being the focus of much public concern.”

On Wednesday the release of the fugitive and migratory emissions measurements by [Southern Cross University in the Tara Estates](#) in Queensland has found greenhouse gas emissions three times higher than nearby districts. According to researchers, the methane gas is “leaking up through the soil and bubbling up through rivers at an astonishing rate.”

The measurement of these emissions is important as the carbon price on such emissions could effectively shut down the industry.



Joining the Dots.

Also on Wednesday, the “[Beating around the Bush](#)” report from the Australia Institute shows the impact of the mining boom on our agricultural Industries and our regional communities from a historically high Aussie Dollar.

The report shows that the impacts of the high exchange rate have slashed \$43.5 billion from rural export income since the beginning of the mining boom and \$14.9 billion in 2010 – 2011. This directly impacts regional Australia as the profits and the input dollars from rural industries stay in regional economies rather than flow to large corporate contractors and foreign owned share holders.

The Australia Institute report concludes that the mining boom has not been managed well.

Meanwhile in the big smoke, the [ICAC enquiry](#) heard that both Premiers Rees and Iemma were bought down by allegedly corrupt coal interests. The politics behind local projects in the North West are also murky and in response the current Planning Minister is running a hands off planning process whereby public servants are calling the shots.

All this is against a scenario described by the [International Energy Agency's 2012 Outlook](#) released this month. The Outlook found that at least two thirds of known fossil fuel reserves must never be mined if the world is to avoid the 2 degree average warming that will trigger catastrophic runaway climate change.

Joining the dots is troubling indeed, yet, the findings are in. Our health, our environment, the climate, the economy and now our political party system are threatened by conflicted or corrupted state governments, sectional interests and their risky industries.