

GRIP Members and Supporters night. All Welcome

Thursday 3rd September. 7.00pm CWA Rooms. Church Street, Gloucester.

A night to catch up on all the latest news.

Watch the documentary on Gloucester and GRIP.

Hear about the health impacts of exploration and open cut mining.

An opportunity to ask questions and state opinions.

Refreshments will be served.

For information contact by reply email or Di Montague 6558 3052.

Environmental Defenders Office Workshop – All Welcome

Sunday 20th September. 1.00pm to 5.00pm
Gloucester Soldiers Club. Denison Street, Gloucester.
Refreshments will be served.

Brief overview of the information which will be covered in the presentation.

- Mining in NSW – mining approvals, leases, access agreements, landholder rights, restrictions and development consent.
- Mines and Part 3A.
- Environmental Assessment Under Part 3A .
- Commonwealth Approvals.
- Effective Public Participation.

Bring along the questions you want answered.

For information contact by reply email or Di Montague 6558 3052

★ How Close Is Too Close?

Gloucester Resources Ltd (GRL) own properties 500metres from the middle of town

Coal contains multiple toxins injurious to human health. Human (& animal) health is damaged in proportion to:-

1) The proximity to an open cut coal mine, associated coal transportation and processing plant.

2) The duration of the exposure. (**A further 20 years is planned**)

3) The dose, the number of toxins and the way they interact.

Several studies have demonstrated children living 4.82kms from a mine on average have about a 13% chance of developing asthma, at **3.21kms** it is a **21%** chance and at **1.6kms** they have about a **30%** chance.

**Hear more at the meeting on
3rd September.**

Murray Pakes sent a letter to the Department of Education with regard to safeguarding the health of his children.

Recent coal exploration drilling took place - **2.83km from the border of the property to the local high school and 3.46 km from the local primary school .**

....research done by the CSIRO states that, acid gases with known adverse health effects are released in potentially harmful concentrations when blasting occurs in open cast coal mines. **These poisonous emissions are measurable up to 5km from a blasting site.** What is the official policy of the NSW education system with respect to these types of risks to which our children might be put were a mine to be approved in this location?

The Department of Education assured Murray that objections would be made and assurances sought if the health of staff and students was put at risk.

If a mine development occurred they would assist the school community throughout the process.

Will Australia be the top exporter of climate change to the world?

According to the study by University of Newcastle researches Steve Mohr and Geoffrey Evans

Other countries reserves are depleting so they are turning to renewable energies. Australia could be left behind if we continue to back coal. We will be the only country supplying coal and won't have a market because the rest of the world will be using renewable energy.

In the Latrobe Valley, Victoria, a growing number of the workers believe brown-coal power stations are destined to close. They do not want to place their

future in the hands of 380,000 British shareholders of an International Power Company. They want superannuation savings to be invested in green-collar jobs. Dave Kerin, a Union member says, government and big business are locked in together and will not make the decisions that the local community wants. "that only leaves us. We're saying we'll step up. We will unite as working class communities around the issue of green-collar jobs."

The Government says Gloucester will benefit from coal because of jobs ... There are a growing number of experts, communities members and coal workers contradicting them.

➤ **Have they been renewed or not?** ... that is the question.

The Managing Director of GRL Brian Wingett says "YES" but DPI says "NO"

According to the minutes of the **CCC meeting of 3.7.09** Mr Brian Wingett "advised the company has received electronic advice that the three exploration licenses will be renewed for three years. He will table a hard copy of renewal when they are to hand and forward a copy to Mr Healey"

The DPI advised Norm Sage and Allan Young, General Manager, Gloucester Council that the GRL exploration licences were still being processed.

How is it that Mr Brian Wingett has information about the renewal of the Licences when the administrators of the renewal process do not?

This raises the question, **where did Mr Brian Wingett get the electronic information?** Was it from the DPI or from Minister Macdonald himself?

We expect a prompt reply from Mr Brian Wingett via the Community Consultative Committee.

Open Cut or Underground? Jan catches them out.

Minister Ian Macdonald told Nancy Fallon underground and stated it was in the hands of the Planning Department. Jan Tressider wrote to Ms Kristina Keneally, Planning Minister who referred her back to Mr Macdonald. Not to be put off, Jan sent her Mr Macdonald's email referring her to Ms Keneally. Ms Keneally said she was glad the matter was clarified and would get back to Jan.

We're still waiting Minister Kristine Keneally....

The protest at Parliament had an impact.

The Greens amendment to the Mining Bill was defeated but not forgotten. We're still very optimistic.

The Shooters Party say they will introduce their own Bill when Parliament resumes. It's not that we don't trust them but ... plans are afoot to get interested parties together for discussion.

☞ **Four Corners at Liverpool Plains.**

Hope you all saw this excellent program highlighting the struggle between Agriculture and mining. GRIP made contact with Four Corners and continue to send them information on our activities in Gloucester. We are hopeful for a result. The Caroonia Action Group have had tremendous success in the battle against the coal miners, winning commitments from the miners that they would not mine the fertile plains, only the ridge country. **It is possible to be successful in this fight, if we all band together!**

☞ **A win for the good guys.**

Dungog Agog. A Feast of Foreign Films.

Unlike the Dungog Film Festival this one will not be sponsored by the Minerals Council whose PR machine was in full swing at the last Festival.

This one is a locally devised and locally sponsored community effort.

Saturday 5th Sept. James Theatre Dungog.

Tickets start at \$40 for the five films.

Information on their website www.agog.net.au

To quote Mr Jack Mundie **"ordinary people can make a difference"**. Remember they saved The Rocks area of Sydney from developers – against all odds.

NEWS FLASH - - - - -

The Environment Defenders Office has stepped in with a possible class action resulting from the failure of the NSW Health Dept to discharge its duty of care by neglecting to study the adverse health impacts of open cut coal mining and coal fired power generation. Hundreds of Upper Hunter residents are seeking to be represented by the Environmental Defenders Office.

GRIP

Gloucester Residents in Partnership

www.grip.org.au