

GRIP Newsletter

January 2011

Dear Members

NSW Farmer's Association Public Forum in Gloucester on the 17th February – details opposite.

Below are listed several events which we encourage you to attend. You can also join the new National Alliance, 'Lock The Gate'. GRIP is a member and individuals are also encouraged to join. Visit the 'Lock The Gate' website at www.lockthegate.org.au This organisation is a very powerful force to present our views on coal and coal seam gas mining in Australia.

GRIP 'How Close is Too Close' campaign
659 letters were sent to Premier Kristina Keneally and Opposition Leader Barry O'Farrell.
Thank you to all the people who signed letters and helped with the campaign.

Cost of membership

It is \$5 a year to be a member of GRIP. With this money we can fund the many campaigns and events that we believe can assist in stopping GRL from mining for coal in the Gloucester valley. If you want GRIP to continue then we need you to pay your subscription.

The recent campaign cost thousands of dollars. If you do not pay your subscription then we have to spend a lot of time and energy, better spent on campaigns, on fundraising.

Our AGM is scheduled for March/April, this is when the subscriptions are due. If you have not paid for 2010 then you can pay now and it will be your 2011 membership. Thank you to those members who have paid and continue to support us with donations. Details for payment below.

Only \$5. Send cheque to GRIP PO Box 440 Gloucester 2422 or direct deposit. Please put your name on the deposit form so we know you have renewed.

National Australia Bank, Gloucester: BSB No. 082 595 Account No. 83254 5310 Gloucester Residents In Partnership

If you want to become a member the cost is \$2 to join and \$5 for the year. The application form is on our website www.grip.org.au or you can return email and a form will be sent out to you.

NSW Farmer's Association Public Forum in Gloucester

Thursday, 17th February, 1.00pm to 5.00pm at the Golf Club.

All members of the public are invited to attend.

The NSW Farmer's Association have arranged a public meeting to discuss the issues to do with the conflict between mining and agricultural land.

There will be speakers, including the NSW Farmer's Association Mining Taskforce Chair, Mrs Fiona Simson.

The GRIP committee are requesting that members attend this very important meeting. There will be opportunities to ask questions and comment.

GRIP has joined 'Lock The Gate', a national alliance of community, industry and environmental groups.

Overarching Statement from 'Lock The Gate'.

Lock The Gate are calling for a balanced and rigorous regulatory approach to police the development of the coal and unconventional gas mining industries in Australia.

Australia is being let down by deficient laws and governments which allow the unconstrained growth of those destructive fossil fuel extraction industries.

This is at the long-term cost of our water, food security and our communities. Fossil fuel extraction has a detrimental effect on the health of people and the environment.

An undemocratic process has disenfranchised the Australian people.

Enough is enough!

Australian citizens are the rightful custodians of this land not governments.

Australian citizens must have a voice in deciding if, when, where and how our resources are exploited.

Our government representatives are elected to serve the Australian community and must be held accountable to act in our best interests.

Our governments must restore the balance between rampant short-term development of our natural resources and the preservation of the environment and quality of life for present and future generations of Australians.

By joining 'Lock The Gate' GRIP will have a greater voice. As a small community we struggle to be heard. Lock The Gate are organising many protest events as listed below.

1. **Community Forum** - February in Broke.
2. **Four Corners Investigative report on the impacts of Coal Seam Gas industry in Australia**
ABC – Monday night – 14th or 21st February.
3. **Expert panel forum on the health and environmental impacts of coal**
currently expected to be the week of the 13th March in Sydney.
4. **Queensland Lock The Gate National Action**
Date: 1-5th May 2011

Where: Tara showgrounds (300km west of Brisbane)

What: 4 days of workshops, forums, displays and direct action

Information: <http://westerndowns.group-action.com/events/>

5. Sydney Town Hall Rally

Scheduled for May 2011. (GRIP will be organising a bus or a cavalcade of cars to attend this rally – we will keep you informed on the progress of this event)

GRIP will be sending regular updates in regard to the 'Lock The Gate' actions.

Fundraising

Garden Ramble on in October

The very popular GRIP 'Glorious Gloucester Gardens on Show' is on again this year.

Date Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th October 2011

The ramble this year will be focused on the area of Barrington, with many gardens to view. Please put this date in your diary. It will be a wonderful event .

Gloucester Resources Limited is still drilling. There are very few properties left in the Fairbairns Road area which are not owned by GRL. Looks like 2011 will be a big year for GRIP.

GRIP

Gloucester Residents in Partnership Inc

www.grip.org.au