



Caroona Coal Action Group Inc.

www.ccag.org.au PO Box 4009 Caroona NSW 2343

CCAG NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

The battle has been blazing over the past few months, exemplified superbly by the NSW Farmers recent call for a moratorium on any new mining or coal seam gas development across the State. This is a proposal fully supported by the CCAG, and we thank the Association for tackling this issue head on.

Please read on for a summary of what has been happening, and be sure to have your diary handy as there are some important events coming up!! As always, please refer to our fabulous website www.ccag.org.au for further information.

License Validity Appeal Hearing *The case commences Tuesday 9th November starting 10am in the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court building for anyone who is able to attend in support.*

Some Attention At Last... Ministers Visit Caroona

On separate occasions in July, both Paul McLeay, the then NSW Minister for Mineral Resources and Martin Ferguson, Federal Minister for Resources and Energy, visited Caroona. Paul McLeay's replacement Whan will be meeting with the Caroona and Watermark CCCs next Wednesday.

Paul McLeay heard first hand community concerns on aquifer loss and contamination through gas and coal extraction, uncertainty for agricultural businesses, and health concerns linked with coal mining and transporting. Whilst the Minister was unable to satisfy our concerns, he pointed to new technology solutions, admitted 'challenging' issues, and took some issues on notice to report back to the community. He also noted that 'development is good'. The Minister also agreed chequebook co-existence was not feasible ultimately, as the Mining Companies continue to use land purchasing as their preferred solution.

Martin Ferguson agreed with the issues raised by CCAG and kept his distance from the NSW State Labor Govt when he confirmed that a water study should have been conducted prior to the granting of exploration licenses. He guaranteed the \$1.5 million federal funding for the study, and saw for himself the value of the area in agricultural terms. We look forward to further discussions in the future.

While these visits are a step in the right direction, we are continuing to lobby for the protection of prime agricultural land. The State Opposition has intimated their support, but we need a big push to get this over the line before the election.

Grain Drive and Fundraising

So, with the looming state election, we really feel that the coming months will be critical for our efforts in securing the protection of our beautiful and productive region. With this in mind, and in the context of the favourable season combined with good prices, we would hope that the community can continue the strength and support which has driven us to where we are today. Every little bit counts, so please do contribute to the 2010 appeal. Please see the attached form for details.

On The Gas Front.... *there are lots of positive things happening - please join in and support them. Give it your best until the elections - **this is PRIME TIME!***

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The Gas Fight has gone digital. Please watch the new video Utter Madness (8 mins)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7HbLwxlBFck> The video highlights some of our local farmers and shows what a wonderful productive area we live in. Then ask Barry and Kristina what they are going to do about the Liverpool Plains, blog on the site and send the fabulous new video around to everyone you know and ask them to forward it on.

Now is the time to tell everyone you know, to like the Facebook Page:

<http://www.facebook.com/SaveLiverpoolPlains> ; follow the Twitter account:

<http://www.twitter.com/saveourplains> ;& share/email the blog:

<http://www.saveliverpoolplains.com>

Many, many thanks to Rob Barry and Bob Hunter for financing this initiative and a special thanks to Rob Barry's nephew and his team who gave up their weekends to put this whole project on the internet.

Demonstration Wed 10th Nov @ Eastern Star Gas AGM 10.15am. The demonstration is to be held outside the State Library in Macquarie St, Sydney. Please all come. Four Corners will be filming the demonstration. If we are big enough they will come to the Liverpool Plains and we will be part of a coal seam gas expose on Four Corners to be shown in February. Politicians have been invited so it will be a significant event. Santos has considerable shareholdings in Eastern Star Gas. They are trying to build a huge pipeline across the floodplain from Narrabri to Mullaley which will facilitate gas gathering in our area. Please contact Rosemary Nankivell on 0428643284 or 0267474004 to help with numbers for the booking of buses from Quirindi and Gunnedah and organisation of the day

Award-Winning Gaslands Documentary Showing in Gunnedah 19th November. It will detail the CSG industry in America and is a compelling film. Josh Fox, the producer, will be there to open the show. He is touring Australia for two weeks so we are so lucky to have him. Thanks to Susan Wilson who has organised this for us. More details will follow.

PALA 5 - Santos has withdrawn its application for a petroleum assessment lease at Glasserton. It is expected that this is only a short term measure. Santos will be still operating under Exploration License.

The Water Study.... up and running!!

Many of you would be aware that Schlumberger Water Services were awarded the tender for the water study, and have promptly commenced with the project. If anyone has not yet shared their bore information, please consider doing so as all information is valuable. There will be presentations on Wednesday the 10th November from SWS delivering their finding of Phase 1.

Gunnedah: The Civic Theatre 8:30 – 12:30

Quirindi: Quirindi Cinema 2:00 – 5:00

For further information please contact John Lyle on 0428686324

Your Committee

Thank you to all who attended our AGM in September. The meeting fostered some valuable discussion regarding the road forward and was a good chance for a catch up! Sandy Blomfield has

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resumed his post as Chairman, and Tony Todman has taken the reins again for both Vice Chairman and Treasurer. Some changes were made to the makeup of the committee, and we welcome Susie Lyle and Sue Wilmott to the committee for the year ahead. Many thanks to our outgoing committee members, John Polglase, who has moved to Inverell; Frank McKinley who will be leaving the district in retirement; and David Walker and John Clements who did not seek reelection.

SOSLP

Taste of the Plains 2011, Sunday 6th March. Definitely a date for the diary!! We look forward to a showcase of Liverpool Plains Produce, Food Stalls, Celebrities & Music at the Caroona Hall, Caroona.

DONATIONS – Your Support is Critical

Donations are made to the Namoi Valley Environmental Protection Association and are tax deductible. If you are donating grain and would like a receipt this can be arranged – please just contact us!!

To donate grain via delivery to Graincorp quote NGR number 12758812

To arrange pickup of grain ring

Michael Clift 0427668936
Doug Ranken 0429473816
Kate Davidson 0428441752

For cash donations:

Direct deposit to Namoi Valley Environmental Protection Fund.

BSB 082 842

Account No 828128725

Please send an email to ttodman@activ8.net.au with details of deposit

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Register your interest and we will contact you:

Name(s): _____

Contact PH: _____

Email: _____

- I/we would like to donate winter crop
- I would like to be contacted for pickup
- I will deliver to Graincorp on NGR 12758812

Commodity: _____ Approx Tonnes: _____

Fax to 0267473806, or reply email

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