

The Northern Rivers Pledge



We people of the Northern Rivers pledge to protect our region from all CSG gas activity.

We reject the radical plan to turn the Northern Rivers into gas fields. The coal seam gas industry cannot coexist with healthy rural communities and landscapes. We support the conservative, responsible option of protecting our people and World Heritage natural environments.

We insist that the Northern Rivers is declared a *CSG-Free Region* to protect its unique soil, water and biodiversity, and to preserve its status as an important region for food growing.

Why we oppose Invasive Gasfields in the Northern Rivers

Our Northern Rivers is rich in soil, rainfall, biodiversity and beauty. It consists of small landholdings and family businesses. Mining gas from coal seams or tight sands is called 'unconventional'. We call it invasive. It threatens our core values. It is short-term gain for gas companies and long-term pain for communities.

There is no such thing as a single gas well. Gasfield industrialisation involves a spider's web of wells, pipes, roads, fences and toxic ponds. It would destroy our rural landscapes. For the next 20 years, thousands of wells would bring vast quantities of salty contaminated water to the surface, release toxic fumes, damage aquifer and surface water systems, and inflict 24 hour-a-day noise and light pollution on rural communities. The associated loss in land value would represent a cruel transfer of wealth from rural families to mining companies. Such destruction of natural environments, property, lifestyle and prospects would lead to widespread distress, social disruption and political turmoil.

The Northern Rivers' renowned World Heritage rainforests and waterways are all sustained by aquifer fed springs. Our farmers grow good, healthy food. Our sustainable agriculture and tourism employs many thousands of people. Gasfield industrialisation threatens all this.

Large companies have power and money to buy influence. Yet history shows that a united people can create a turning point. By adding our signatures here, we commit ourselves to **act** to stop the Northern Rivers from becoming a gas field.

We are from all walks of life and political persuasions, united in a fast growing mass movement. We will not shirk our responsibility to protect the country we love. We insist on justice and fairness. We insist on the precautionary principle - to protect our water, our rights, and our communities.

Our opposition is non-violent, but non-negotiable.

Until the Northern Rivers is declared *CSG-free*, I commit myself to defend our region from gasfield activity by signing one or more of the following Pledge commitments. This can be done online at www.csqfreenorthernrivers.org or on hardcopy overleaf.

YOU CAN TICK AS MANY PLEDGES AS YOU WISH



It's a big help if you pledge online at www.csqfreenorthernrivers.org

If this is not possible, please sign and send to CSGfree Northern Rivers, Post Office Box 38, Conway St Lismore NSW 2480

YOU CAN TICK AS MANY PLEDGES AS YOU WISH

The Pledge to Lock the Gate

I will refuse access to my land by all CSG companies and their agents; never enter into an agreement to allow access; and never sell, rent or lease my land to any CSG associated entity. I will display the Lock the Gate sign at the entrance to my property.

The Pledge to communicate

I'll watch the DVD 'The Battle for a CSG Free Northern River's and share it with at least 5 others. I'll inform neighbours and workmates about CSG, and let them know why I've taken the Northern Rivers Pledge. I'll display my Pledge Certificate to start conversations. I'll communicate with politicians, newspapers and opinion leaders in person, or by phone, letters and emails. Learn how at www.csqfreenorthernrivers.org

The Pledge for practical support

I'll support CSG-free Northern Rivers by making an online donation, and giving skills or time.

The Pledge to help local defence

I'll work with neighbours to achieve a CSG-free locality.

This is progressive (lock the gate → lock the road → lock the valley → protect the region)

The website has resources for each step -

1. Raise awareness. Don't miss this step! You could show *The Battle for a CSG free Northern Rivers* in your local hall. Or get the DVD with a leaflet to every household. Make sure every household is informed.
2. Reach public decision to declare your road CSG-free. You could do this via resolution at a public meeting. Or have a meeting + survey each household on whether they want their road CSG-free.
3. Erect road signs saying the road CSG-free, protected by community.
4. Invite media to your event. Invite your Mayor to receive your Road Declaration. Celebrate that you're preserving your locality. Be creative. Take photos.
5. Register your CSG-free road on www.csqfreenorthernrivers.org, with the name of 2 local contacts. Upload photos. Tell us how you did it! Post on Facebook & Twitter.
6. Feeling bold now? Get your whole valley CSG-free. For this you'll need CSG-free valley + ridge roads. Bigger event/media/celebration. Once you've done this, register your CSG-free valley on www.csqfreenorthernrivers.org. Upload photos and your story.

The Pledge for peaceful direct action

I will attend training in non-violent direct action. I will learn how to keep it effective by being disciplined and peaceful. Once trained, I will decide on my engagement in Direct Action to defend our local environment and community from CSG activity. Find out more through local action groups.

SIGNATURE		DATE			
PRINT NAME					
EMAIL (clearly please)					
EMAIL AGAIN - PRINTED					
PRINT ADDRESS				POSTCODE	
MOBILE		HOME PHONE		TWITTER account	
PLEASE TICK BOXES FOR HOW YOU CAN HELP					
Office work/resources	Sign writing or building	Door-knocking	Printing materials	DVD copying & distribution	Fund-raising
Legal expertise	Science expertise (water, mining, tox)	Public theatre & art	Desktop publishing	Multimedia/photography	IT skills
Trade skills	Writing/journalism	Retail outlet for signs	Write other skills or resources you offer		