

Media Release 25th July 2012

## **INVITATION TO STOP COAL AND GAS UNDERMINING HUMAN HEALTH**

The North West Alliance invites all north west residents, allied health professionals, business leaders and concerned persons to the Gunnedah Town Hall for a basin wide Health Forum, "Don't Undermine our Health".

The forum will be opened by Federal Member Tony Windsor and hear details from Dr Marian Lloyd-Smith and Dr Dick van Steenis relating to the risks to human health posed by gas and coal based on medical evidence. Long term Hunter Valley resident Wendy Bowman will discuss the impacts of open cut coal from a resident's perspective and Jake Coffey from the UNSW will provide an overview of the Health Impact Assessment process.

The speakers will be followed by a Q and A session to get community feedback regarding the scope of the HIA.

"The planning process does not assess health impacts of individual projects, nor does it assess the cumulative health impacts." said Phil Laird spokesman for the Maules Creek Community Council.

"Government is incapable or unwilling so the community must work together to safeguard the health of all people in our region now and in the future."

"We are encouraging everyone to come along to our health forum which will be held on the 4th August at the Gunnedah Town Hall from 2.00pm-4.00pm." said Nicky Chirlian from the North West Alliance

"We will be having a number of interesting speakers and a question and answer about the proposed health impact assessment. This will be followed by an art exhibition opening titled 'Don't Frack Our Landscape: Don't Mine Our Lungs' by Jayney Carter.

Information or comment: Phil Laird 0428712622, Nicky Chirlian 0488056199.

# “UNDERMINING OUR HEALTH”

Presented by the North West Alliance Against Coal & CSG

Information about the health impacts of coal mining and coal seam gas extraction on you and your family

**4<sup>th</sup> August 2012 GUNNEDAH TOWN HALL All welcome. Gold coin donation**

## **Dr Mariann Lloyd-Smith**

Senior Advisor to the Australian based National Toxics Network and IPEN, an international chemical safety organization representing 700 organizations in over 100 countries; a Member of the Technical Advisory Group of the national industrial chemical regulator; a member of the UN Expert Group on Climate Change and Chemicals. In 2011, she coauthored NTN's report on the chemical impacts of hydraulic fracturing in the Australian shale and coal seam gas industry.



**Dr Dick van Steenis** video, Sydney Health Forum: "Human Health Impacts of Open-cut Coal Mining & Coal Seam Gas Mining". Since 1997, Dr van Steenis has researched the health effects of such particulate-generating operations as power stations, rubbish incinerators, and open-cut coal mines.

**Jake Coffey** From the Center for Health Equity Training, Research and Evaluation (CHETRE). Part of the UNSW Research Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity, School of Public Health and Community Medicine. University of NSW. [www.hiaconnect.edu.au](http://www.hiaconnect.edu.au)

**Mrs Wendy Bowman** Farmer from Camberwell started Minewatch in 1991. An active member of the Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group. Mrs Bowman has extensive knowledge of community action and a recent win with regulators saying no to the expansion of Ashton mine fires her ongoing determination to educate communities regarding health effects of coal dust, chemicals and diesel fumes.

**Q and A: “Establishing a Health Impact Assessment in the Gunnedah Basin”.**

Followed by: **EXHIBITION OPENING (4:30 – 5:30pm)**

