

Newsletter



FLAC Forest Footage 6 Dec

CONFIRMED: FALSE INFORMATION USED IN WHITEHAVEN MINE APPROVAL

Nov 13- Two new independent expert ecologists have confirmed that Whitehaven Coal provided false and misleading information to State and Federal Governments in order to get approval for its controversial Maules Ck coal mine, near Narrabri. The Maules Creek Community Council is calling for Environment Minister Greg Hunt to revoke the approval. [Read more](#)

MAULES CREEK CALL TO ARMS - LEARD ACT UP!

Act Up! Three days of non violent direct action training and peaceful protest

When: Saturday, 14 December 2013 - 12:45pm to Monday, 16 December 2013 - 12:45pm

Where: Directly on site at the blockade camp on the Leard State Forest Road near Boggabri in North West NSW.

Spend the weekend with the local community and supporters who want to stop the Whitehaven Coal's Coal mine destroying the Leard State Forest.

Whitehaven Coal (and its Aussie bankers) wants to clear much of the iconic Leard Forest, home to almost 400 different plants and animals - 34 of them threatened, including the Koala and the Barking Owl. It will damage Aboriginal heritage values, water resources and could release around 18,000 tonnes of coal dust into the local community every year.

If it goes ahead it could result in up to a half a billion tonnes of carbon emissions. This is madness in an era of climate change. The mine should never have been approved.

Act Up is going to be big! Meet the local campaigners and other supporters for three days of peaceful protest, workshops and peaceful direct action training. This event is critical to the campaign to stop the mine. Watch the video here where the locals are calling for help. [Watch](#) [See more](#)

WHITEHAVEN REFERRED TO ASIC OVER MAULES CREEK PROJECT

Nov 20- Activists have referred Whitehaven Coal to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission over what they claim are breaches to the Federal Corporations Act. It's the same Act environmentalist Jonathan Moylan was charged under, after he allegedly released a hoax email that temporarily wiped millions off the resource company's share price earlier this year. [Watch](#)

DISGUSTING LABOR TEAMS UP WITH ABBOTT GOV'T TO WEAKEN THE EPBC ACT

Dec 10- will no longer be forced to consider formal conservation advice for endangered species in projects approved before the end of this year, under changes to the national environment law agreed on by the Coalition and Labor.

The community has been silenced on all previous decisions, locking away any skeletons in the closet

The pact between the two major parties effectively eliminates implications of a landmark case earlier this year in which the Federal Court overturned an approval by the former Labor government for a mine in Tasmania's Tarkine wilderness. [Read more](#)

[View the EPBC Act Amendments](#)

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Also DISGUSTING

28 Nov- Coal mine boss appointed to land and environment agency

Maules Creek residents have expressed dismay at news that Whitehaven Board Member **Tony Haggarty** has been appointed as a Director of the North West Local Land Services (LLS) Board, handing him a key role in decisions on natural resource management and land-use conflict in the region.

Tony Haggarty was, until earlier this year, also the managing director of Whitehaven Coal. According to the 2013 Whitehaven Annual Report, he currently holds 33 million shares in the company.

[Read more](#)

It is outrageous to Narrabri rate-payers that Mayor Conrad **Bolton supported Haggarty** onto the LLS board. Whitehaven Coal will have a major cumulative impact in the region. It is a conflict of interest to give a Whitehaven Board member a lead role in a government resource management body in NW NSW.

LOCAL LAND SERVICES ELECTION DATES ANNOUNCED

NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, today announced the inaugural Local Land Services (LLS) elections will take place on 12 March 2014, with nominations for board member positions now open until 31 January.

“Local knowledge, local leadership and understanding of local issues will be critical to the success of LLS and I urge all ratepayers to enrol to vote in this important election process.

“I encourage anyone with a passion for regional and rural issues, who is eager to contribute at a local level, to put up their hand and nominate for a board position before 31 January.”

Ms Hodgkinson said LLS is on track for a successful implementation in January 2014. [LINK](#)

ICAC SAYS COAL CORRUPTION WAS INEVITABLE, RECOMMENDS TIGHTER CONTROLS

30 Oct- Corrupt conduct over New South Wales coal licences has been possible because of policy and regulation flaws, the corruption watchdog says.

Released today, the Independent Commission Against Corruption's report found that current regulation around the NSW coal industry lacks clear objectives, independent oversight, transparency, and allows for a high level of ministerial and bureaucratic discretion. [Read](#)



[Listen to Quentin Dempster on Harcher's resignation](#)

ALLIANCE CALLS FOR INQUIRY AS MINES MINISTER BITES THE DUST

Dec 4- The Lock the Gate Alliance has called for a broad-ranging inquiry into the management of coal and coal seam gas mining in NSW, after Mineral Resources **Minister Chris Hartcher resigned** from Cabinet today following reports of an ICAC raid on his office.

The action by ICAC is understood to relate to alleged illegal donations which forced the suspension of Mr Hartcher's former staffer, Ray Carter. “Chris Hartcher is the third Minister for minerals resources to fall under the shadow of an ICAC investigation this year, following corrupt conduct findings against former Ministers Eddie Obeid and Ian MacDonald” said Carmel Flint, Campaign Co-ordinator with Lock the Gate Alliance. “The community has lost all faith in the integrity of the Ministers who control mining in this state, and can no longer trust the NSW Government to put the interests of the wider public ahead of the profit-driven agenda of mining companies. [Read more](#)

WATER, CORRUPTION, AND LEGAL APPEAL RIGHTS - YOU DECIDE

Intriguingly, late on Friday, the NSW Department of Planning tweeted Lock the Gate Alliance a link to a letter, which it apparently wrote in response to a media release that we sent out last week.

Our media release criticised their proposed new Planning Bill 2013 for breaking promises made before the election about returning power to communities and protecting water resources, and for failing to address corruption vulnerabilities in the wake of the coal mining corruption scandal.

Given they went to all the trouble of writing a public letter to respond to a media release, we thought we should have a close look at the claims they make in the letter.

On closer inspection, its clear that their claims simply do not stack up. See below for details - but suffice to say, the more they attempt to defend themselves and this pro-mining Bill, the more it's extraordinary weaknesses emerge. [More](#)

WHITEHAVEN COAL RAMPS UP PRODUCTION WHILE NEW HOPE AND ANGLO CUT COSTS

Nov 7- In comparison to Whitehaven Coal, New Hope Corporation (ASX: NHC) has had a relatively steady share price since 2007, and has absolutely thumped Whitehaven Coal. ...The Chairman of Whitehaven Coal is Mark Vaile, former leader of the Nationals. Interestingly, Vaile was also appointed Chairman of CBD Energy (ASX: CBD) in 2009. Shareholders of that company have fared worse than Whitehaven Coal. CBD's share price has declined from above 15 cents in 2009 to the current price of 1.1 cent. The company has applied to be delisted from the ASX.

The SBS reports that Vaile assured investors at the AGM that Whitehaven's current projects will pay off. [More](#)

COAL INDUSTRY NEEDS DRAMATIC CHANGE

The coal industry needs to change rapidly to help prevent global warming by leaving most of the fuel in the ground and closing the least efficient power plants, the top climate official at the United Nations said. [More](#)

ABBOTT RISKS HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT FOR FREE TRADE

The Coalition's newly announced trade policy leaves the federal government vulnerable to legal action from international companies, according to The Australia Institute. [More](#)

TPPA petition

Governments from the United States to Australia and from Canada to the EU are secretly negotiating trade deals that will give global corporations the right to sue our governments and overturn our laws. Please sign this petition calling on global governments to scrap these deals. [More](#)

HAVE YOUR SAY NSW DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE- LAND ACCESS FOR CSG & PETROLEUM EXPLORATION UNTIL 16 DEC 2013

The NSW Government is calling for feedback on a draft Code of Practice for Land Access for coal seam gas and petroleum exploration. The Code sets out a best practice framework for how explorers can negotiate access arrangements with landholders. [More](#)

WHAT'S AT STAKE IN THE DONATIONS WARS

Last week Nathan Tinkler's "Aston Coal 2" mine was before the Land & Environment Court in Sydney after two of its directors failed to declare political donations to the Department of Planning. [More](#)

SCANDAL. THE CONNECTION BETWEEN WATER, POLITICS & MINING ROYAL COMMISSION NEEDED

Alan Jones comments – 5 Dec

What is Australian Water Holdings' Nick Di Girolamo, doing on Advisory Council of UNSW Faculty of Science?

Why has Australian Water Holdings' Tony Bellas been appointed Chair of Shine Laywers?

[Listen](#)

GREENS BILL WILL GIVE LANDHOLDERS RIGHT TO REFUSE CSG

9th Dec- A BILL to give landholders the right to refuse coal seam gas operations on their land will be debated in the Senate, after it was introduced today.

Introduced by Queensland Senator Larissa Waters, the laws will be a test for the Abbott Government, after Prime Minister Tony Abbott has previously pledged to give landholders such rights. [More](#)

7.30 REPORT ON SANTOS IN PILLIGA

22 NOV- [HERE](#)

29 NOV- [HERE](#)

A FAIR GO - YOUR RIGHT TO SAY NO

In early November, Prime Minister Tony Abbott visited residents in Queensland, to listen to concerns about living near coal seam gasfields.

He said that coal seam gas mining "should never be allowed in residential areas" and that "nobody should be forced to have a gas well on their property".

We're asking Mr Abbott to stick to his word and give landholders a fair go.

[Sign petition](#)



So far, 95% of surveyed landholders have declared themselves gasfield free. The survey process has gone viral, as more and more communities embrace the gasfield free strategy and withdraw the gas industry's social license to operate. - [See more](#)

PILLIGA PROTEST

Nov 14- MORE than 20 community members stood their ground on Friday on a crown land road that leads to one of Santos' coal seam gas (CSG) drill rigs in the Pilliga Forest. [More](#)



Anti-fracking activist Pope Francis

The Maules Creek Community Council (MCCC) was formed on the 25th of July 2010 at a community meeting to address the concerns of residents regarding the coal and gas developments in the local area. The Maules Creek Community Council (MCCC) was formed on the 25th of July 2010 at a community meeting to address the concerns of residents regarding the coal and gas developments in the local area.