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## Angel auction extended

The 7 Sibley Street Angel Auction has been extended until the end of August in the hope that it may be one of the last fundraisers before the project's loan is paid off.

The 25 'angels' taking part are offering a range of services that include a one-day cheese-making workshop, a home cooked dinner for four – plus another for 10, Bridge lessons, sewing classes, a live band for your function, guitar maintenance lessons, herbal medicine consultations, sock-knitting classes, massages, conversational German lessons, and a host of others.

To take part, go to the 7 Sibley Street website: [sevenonsibley.com](http://sevenonsibley.com) where you will find a list of the heavenly services being offered by the 25 angels. You need only enter a dollar amount in the box below your angel of choice to register your bid.

You can also make a bid on the form available at the front desk of the Nimbin Neighborhood and Information Centre.

The progressively highest bids will be announced each week on the 7 Sibley Street website, allowing you to increase your own bid if you want to.

NNIC manager Nat Meyer said the auction, which has been running online since the beginning of July, offered something in return for the community's support of the project.

"More than a few angels have been involved in the purchase of the site over the past two years," Nat said.

"This time we're giving our supporters the chance to get something back in the form of their very own angel."

Check out the Angels, and put your bid on at: [sevenonsibley.com](http://sevenonsibley.com) For further information call Cat on 6689-1692.



NNIC angel Cat Anderson contemplates updating the 7 Sibley Street sign

## Fibre Vibrations

### Weave and Mend Fibre Festival 3rd-5th October

by Granny Breath Weaver

The year 2014 is upon us... the beginning of the end... and the new fresh life is slowly and quietly creeping in... through all the horrors upon horrors. Through all the thoughtlessness, blindness, pollution, and destruction forced upon all life on our planet Earth Mother.

Sometimes people, self-elected authorities, who need guns to stay 'in power', need to go to the extreme edge before they wake up. But wake up they will. They will wake up one morning and become conscious of the atrocities committed by allowing power and greed and fear to rule their hearts. In the meantime what do we do?

I was inspired by an idea at the last Nimbin Market when I spotted a woven ball, just a small one. It was made from cane and vine. I imagined a very large ball.... symbolizing our planet Earth Mother.... made from cane and vine... perhaps we could surround our Earth Mother ball and hold her tight and imagine all the new loving ways we want for all life. Weave and Mend is looking for contributions of cane and vine to make this possible.

This year also marks our 10th Festival and a slight shift in direction. We are inviting Fibre Artists to present their creativity and inspirations at our three day camp which includes workshops, demonstrations and sale of handmade craft... camping onsite....singing and



dancing around the camp fire. Many thanks to our sponsors – The Nimbin School of Arts, Nimbin Hemp Embassy, the Nimbin Community Centre, and Treefellas for his most important task of providing wood for our fire. Also, we would like to thank the Nimbin GoodTimes for

spreading Nimbin's good times!

For further information please call the Co-ordinator on 6689-7129, or contact the Nimbin Community Centre office on a Tuesday or Wednesday 6689-0000, email: [ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au](mailto:ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au)

## In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre news



[www.nnic.org.au](http://www.nnic.org.au)

### Nimbin Show in September

Now is the time to start thinking about your entries in all or any of these:

- Most Sustainable in Show. Can be individual produce or whole/part of a farm operation. Food or Fibre.
- Local Food Bytes short film competition. Anything to do with local food. Max 15 mins.
- Best Show-Themed Shop Display. Can you wrestle the trophy from last year's winner, the Nimbin Bakery? Displays will be judged in the week before the show.

Details and entry forms available on our website: [www.nnic.org.au](http://www.nnic.org.au) and at NNIC.

Also, remember to enter your produce, baked goods and arts/crafts into this year's Nimbin Show. Simply bring your entries to the pavilion on Friday 19th September before 10.30am.

### Mulgum House – Request from MultiTask

Mulgum House is a residential facility and is home to the people with a disability who call this facility home.

We ask that people refrain from going to the premises to 'look around' – as this is stressful for the people who live there... it is not respectful to assume

you may just turn up unannounced and wander around. People who may be interested in one of the independent living units at Mulgum House must come and speak to the Community Workers at NNIC.

### NNIC Memberships due

All NNIC (including the Food Library) memberships fell due on 1st July. Membership fee is \$5.50 inc GST. (Food Library renewal = \$22). You can help us to support the local community by renewing your membership or joining NNIC.

### Design the Ultimate Green Granny Flat

Don't forget to get your entries in. Various categories and prizes on offer. Entries close 15th August. See [www.sevenonsibley.com/shd2014/](http://www.sevenonsibley.com/shd2014/)

### Sustainable House Day 13th September at Banglalow

Trade and mini-expo. Are you in the business of sustainable building or technologies in the Northern Rivers? Apply now for a stall at the mini-expo.

### Angel Auction extended

Don't miss your chance to bid on one or more of the Angels of your choice and help us to raise those final funds to pay

off 7 Sibley Street while your Angel is helping you! See article above.

### Community Drug Action Team (CDAT)

We are looking to re-form CDAT in Nimbin. If you would like to become involved, please send a short Expression of Interest to Nat at NNIC setting out in brief why you would like to be involved.

### Are you struggling with unpaid fines?

You may be eligible to apply for a Work Development Order which enables you to pay your fines down by doing volunteer work at NNIC. Make an appointment with one of our Community Workers to find out if you are eligible.

NNIC is a local charity and community organisation run by locals for locals, and is funded by NSW FaCS as a Community Hub to provide information and referrals to disadvantaged community members. For information about all services available in Nimbin, Lismore or the Northern Rivers region drop into NNIC and ask at our front desk, or make an appointment with our Community Workers for referrals, support and assistance.



by Cr Danielle Mulholland, Mayor of Kyogle

# Kyogle Council notebook

Ministers and their senior advisers and let them know exactly where we are and what we're all about, and especially what they can do for us to help to enhance conditions within the LGA.

I'd like to express my thanks to our Federal member Kevin Hogan for facilitating some of the meetings and for arranging for a discussion with the Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss when he opened Primex 2014 the day after I got back from Canberra.

It was a fantastic opportunity to have some meaningful dialogue around a range of issues and of course, raise the possibility of more funding.

My congratulations go out to the new Rotary President Mark Ivanusa who was sworn in recently at the Rotary dinner. Congratulations also to the two new members of Rotary, Michelle Sabol and Chris Ingram who I'm sure will make a meaningful contribution to their club.

Further congratulations go to Athol

McQueen, the new President of the Lions Club. The Lions Changeover dinner was attended by Councillor Burley.

I've also been able to attend functions with the Garden Club, the Woodenbong Markets, the Lions Club and the opening of Barbara Murray's art exhibition at the Roxy Gallery on 5th July and that's excluding some of the associated meetings of Council and, of course, our Focus Groups working to promote various aspects of the LGA.

Coming up, there's a forum to discuss future action about the Summerland Way in early August, a citizenship ceremony on 11th August followed immediately afterwards by our ordinary Council meeting, meetings with the Bonalbo Hospital Auxiliary and Far North Coast Weeds in mid August, the next Mayoral meeting on 15th August and a string of other commitments.

A big thank you to all those enthusiastic residents and ratepayers who have contacted Councillors about a range of issues. Some

are significant and complex and others are easier to address.

I hope that when you've taken the time to let us know about your concerns that you feel we've done our best to address your issues.

The next Mayoral meeting will be on 15th August at Woodenbong, so if you have issues you would like us to know about, or if you'd just like to come along and say hello, I'd be very pleased to see you there. All I ask is that you ring and book a time with Ms Janelle McLennan at Council on 6632-0214 so that you won't be kept waiting.

If you can also advise her of your issue and contact details (i.e. phone numbers, email, etc.) this will help me to make some background enquiries so that any information you receive is correct and up to date.

I've tried to spread the Mayoral meetings across the LGA as widely as possible but if you feel your area has missed out and you'd like one out your way, please let me know and I will schedule one accordingly.

Until next time, all the best.

Kyogle Council: 6632-0214  
Danielle.Mulholland@kyogle.nsw.gov.au

## Kyogle public art renewal

by Muranda Goodsell

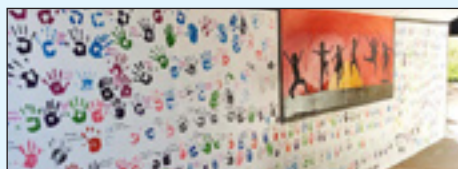
The Kyogle Reconciliation Group would like to congratulate Kyogle Council and Guggin Guddaba Land Council for the amazing renewal of Aunty Patsy's artwork on the WK (Bill) Grove Pedestrian Way.

It's so refreshing to walk out to Geneva or the skate park and see the fantastic mix of old and new imagery together.

Special thanks to Michael Davis and Steven Byers for bringing the walls alive again and a huge shout out to the teachers and staff at Kyogle High, Kyogle Primary and St Brigid's for allowing their student to participate and place their hand prints and become a part of Kyogle's history and future.

What a fun thing for the local kids to be able to place their hands back on the print in a few months, or even years' time, and see how much their young hands have grown.

Thanks to the Kyogle Community and participating members of the Reconciliation group who came along to lend a hand as well.



## No Fracking Way Cabaret

I showed up!

The Bentley Blockade was a pivotal point in the history of the Northern Rivers. What better way to honour this event than with a cabaret, celebrating the epic tales and memorable moments from the blockade through theatrical re-enactments, song, dance and spoken word performances?

On Saturday 30th August at 7.30pm, Down The Gas Hole Productions presents the No Fracking Way Cabaret at the Nimbin Town Hall.

Dinner will be available to purchase from 6.30pm, prepared by the wonderful crew from the Camp Liberty kitchen. Show starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are \$12/\$15 and are available at the door, or pre-sale from the Nimbin



Environment Centre, phone 6689-1441.

This promises to be a night of fun and celebration for our community with a Bentley star-studded cast and crew, and many laughs and entertainment for all...

Will YOU show up?



## Kyogle Hospital then and now

by Noelle Lynden-Way

In previous columns, I have told the story of the establishment of a hospital in Kyogle, concluding with the opening of the Kyogle Public Hospital in 1925. This month I'll write about some of the history from that date until the present day.

Resources used are *Health Services in Kyogle 1903 - 2005* (written by Helen Flower, typed and edited by Betty Fitzgerald, available in Kyogle Library) and an interview with Tom Fitzgerald OAM, Honorary Hospital Board Treasurer in the 1980's and Chairman of the Kyogle Health Services Planning & Steering Committee from 1995 to 2005.

Two very capable, long-term nurse Matrons helped to establish our hospital's reputation. Matron McKid, the first Matron of Kyogle Memorial Hospital, spent 28 years in that job from 1925 to 1953. The McKid Medical Centre was named in her honour. Her constant companion, a fox terrier known as Sweetie, is buried beside a pine tree in the hospital grounds.

The other well-known Kyogle Nursing Sister is Matron Bridie Gregory who became Sister in Charge of the Maternity Hospital

in 1950 and progressed to Matron from 1968 to 1987. The Gregory Family Birth Centre and the Gregory Obstetric Unit were named in her honour. Today, the Gregory Building is on the right as you enter the hospital grounds. Matrons McKid and Gregory were awarded the OBE and OAM respectively for their many years of loyalty and work at our local hospital.

Many doctors carried out surgical procedures and obstetrics at our local hospital when such procedures were often only available in capital cities. There are 27 doctors listed as having practised in Kyogle from 1903 to 2004. One of the longest serving was Dr. Brian Perry who came to Kyogle in 1976 and retired only a few years ago.

We now have the McKid Medical Centre on the left side as you enter the hospital grounds, with five General Practitioners. Patients are now referred to specialists in Lismore, Gold Coast and Brisbane and are transferred to other bigger hospitals by ambulance or helicopter.

The original hospital that was built in 1925 had very little work done over the years and from 1970's the building was run down and difficult for staff to work in.

In 1995, as a result of new Commonwealth & State policies for small country Hospitals, the Kyogle community appointed a KHS Planning & Steering Committee with Tom Fitzgerald as its Chairman. The committee's responsibility was to determine a path into the future for the hospital.

It took ten long years of hard work and meetings and negotiations by Tom and his committee with politicians at Federal, State and Local Government levels for the original Kyogle hospital to be closed and demolished. A completely new building was designed, funded, built and opened in 2005 as our present Kyogle Memorial Multi-Purpose Service.

Kyogle, Nimbin and Urbenville are the three MPS in the Northern Rivers administered by the Northern NSW Local Health District (NNSW LHD). An MPS comprises a Rural Hospital, Emergency Services, Aged Care (Nursing Home) and Community Health in one building.

In my and many people's minds, Tom Fitzgerald OAM has been a hero in the Kyogle Hospital story and thanks to his earlier work in the 1980's, we still have the Whiddon Group Hostel behind the hospital.



Troy Dunn, General Manager, Kyogle Together and Nancy Martin EO/DON, Kyogle MPS with the Award.

Thank you Tom and your wonderful Steering Committee for all that you accomplished for our Kyogle community.

### Active Kyogle recognised

Kyogle MPS and Kyogle Together recently won the Building Partnerships Category at the 2014 Northern NSW Local Health District Quality Awards for *Active Kyogle*, the community health and wellness program.

The program was carried out in Kyogle from 2010 to 2013.

*Active Kyogle* has been entered in

the 2014 NSW Health Innovations Awards.

### General Information

If you are concerned about a health issue, instead of calling the Emergency Department at your local MPS, call the 24-hour 7-days Health Advice Line on 1800-022-222 and have a chat. It's a free service, and I can recommend them from personal experience.

A Registered Nurse will speak to you and assess whether you need to go to ED or not. Look them up on: [www.healthdirect.org.au](http://www.healthdirect.org.au)

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# Only Labor will deliver a CSG-free North Coast

by Justine Elliot MP,  
Member for Richmond

At the recent NSW State Labor Conference there was unanimous support for a motion to have the North Coast declared CSG-free. An urgency motion was moved at the Conference by Janelle Saffin and myself. (see full motion below). Other speakers in support of the motion were Tweed Labor candidate Ron Goodman and Lismore Labor candidate Isaac Smith

At the NSW State election in March 2015 voters will face a very clear choice between the Labor party who want to stop CSG mining on the North Coast and the National Party who want to expand CSG mining.

The fact is a vote for Labor will be a vote to protect the North Coast from the CSG industry, while a vote for the pro-gas Nationals will be a vote to expand CSG mining.

The resolution passed unanimously by the NSW Labor Conference supports a declaration that the State Parliamentary seats of Lismore, Ballina, Clarence and Tweed be 'CSG Free'.

For more information please visit our Facebook Pages:

- Justine Elliot: [www.facebook.com/JustineElliotMP](http://www.facebook.com/JustineElliotMP)
- Ron Goodman: [www.facebook.com/rongoodmantweed](http://www.facebook.com/rongoodmantweed)
- Isaac Smith: [www.facebook.com/Lismore2015](http://www.facebook.com/Lismore2015)

Here's the full text of the urgency motion passed unanimously at NSW Labor State Conference on 27th July.

That Conference:

- Notes:
  - on the NSW North Coast there is overwhelming community opposition to Coal Seam Gas and Unconventional Gas mining and mining operations;



Justine moves the urgency motion at the NSW State Labor Conference

- the community's concern relates to the harmful effects of CSG mining on water quality, farm lands, the environment, communities, residents' health and tourism;
  - the CSG industry has no social license to operate on the NSW North Coast;
  - the NSW North Coast has unique environmental qualities; and
  - CSG mining is incompatible with the NSW North Coast's important employment sectors including tourism and agriculture;
- Condemns the NSW Liberal/National Party Government's pro-

CSG fracking, drilling and expansion agenda on the NSW North Coast; and

- Calls on the NSW Labor Party to:
  - support an immediate moratorium on all CSG activities and licences within the boundaries of the State Parliamentary seats of Lismore, Ballina, Clarence, and Tweed on the NSW North Coast; and
  - support a declaration that the State Parliamentary seats of Lismore, Ballina, Clarence and Tweed be 'CSG Free' and therefore be off-limits to the Coal Seam Gas and Unconventional Gas industries.

# Greens announce candidate for Lismore

by Adam Guise

Today, I'm Adam and I'm the Greens candidate for the seat of Lismore in the 2015 state election.

It's a genuine honour to be given an opportunity to represent this electorate. After fighting on the frontline against coal seam gas, I want to protect our beautiful region in perpetuity. Having lived half my life in this region I know that the most important thing we have is our productive farmland, our precious water, and our vibrant community. All this is threatened by invasive industrialised gasfields and the National Party's failure to represent this electorate.

The Bentley Blockade was an incredibly powerful and successful direct action to protect our land, water and climate from invasive gas drilling. I am immensely humbled to have been part of this inspiring and formidable 'outbreak of democracy'. We won Bentley because we united as a community behind the things that we all care about: clean water for life; unpolluted farmland for food; and a safe climate for future generations.

That's what we're securing here in the Northern Rivers. But it won't last unless we ensure legislative protection, something which Thomas George and the National Party have failed to do. Unless we change the way we do politics and elect a member who will stand up for us, we will continue to live under the threat of invasive gas mining and the corruption of our political system that comes with it.

That's why I want to be your voice in parliament: to represent you and future



generations who depend on our precious food and water, for our health and lifestyles.

This means cancelling all gas licences across the Northern Rivers and legislating to permanently protect our region from gas mining. Our water is too precious to pollute and we stand to gain so much more by using our region as an agricultural and renewable energy powerhouse for New South Wales.

We don't have to pollute our water or wreck our farmland with industrialised gasfields to prosper. We have everything we need to build upon our vibrant community, but we need the vision and political will to achieve it.

We can grow our economy with farming practices like crop diversification, no till farming, and soil restoration. We can trial bamboo and industrial hemp plantations for fibre, food and building products. We can enrich our people by providing the educational opportunities they deserve, through access to properly funded

TAFE and vocational courses.

We can implement the fundamental right to equitable high school education promised by the Gonski reforms. We can support our agricultural industries through workers' cooperatives like Norco, which return profits to members and invest in our community. We can power our economy with renewable energy, sourced from solar PV and biomass from waste products.

Only fossil fools cling to fossil fuels to power our future society. They have corrupted our political system and are destroying our climate. We don't need them and the time for transitioning to a renewable energy economy is now.

The March 2015 State election will be a test of democracy and the vision we hold for the future of our region. However you vote, number every square and put the Nationals last for a Gasfield Free Northern Rivers.

For a job-rich, renewable energy future that puts the community first, vote Green in the March 2015 State election.



# From the mayor's desk



by Cr Jenny Dowell

## E Zone Review

In September 2012, the then NSW Minister for Planning announced a review of the way environmental zones were applied to land in five FNC Councils' Local Environmental Plans (LEP). The bulk of the Lismore LEP was approved so for two years Lismore has been operating with LEP 2012 for all but a small amount of land excised and development on that land still regulated under LEP 2000.

The Planning Department engaged an independent consultant and released an Interim Report in early June giving five weeks for Councils to respond. Our Council met with Planning Department staff and the independent consultant and staff prepared a submission, circulated it to Councillors for input and lodged it at the end of June.

At our July meeting, Council formally considered and endorsed that response. Among Council concerns with the Interim Report are consistency of terminology and application, the costs of further work, including mapping and the permissibility of extensive agriculture in E 2 zones.

## Community Donations

As readers will know, Council recommended some changes to the annual community donations available under section 356 of the Local Government Act. While more significant changes are recommended for 2015 -16 and beyond, the changes for this new financial year were placed on exhibition and staff met with the groups affected most.

In a nutshell, the changes include a 20% reduction in the annual automatic grants to 11 recipients and a doubling of the grant to 29 rural halls to \$2000. Other changes related to updates to relevant policies. Most organisations welcomed or accepted the changes and only three submissions of objection were received from the Lismore Musical Festival Society (Eisteddfod), NC National A&I Society (Showgrounds) and the NC Institute of Sport.

## 2014-15 s356 Donations

Council also advertised for the 2014/15 miscellaneous s356 donations and received 42 eligible applications for a \$2200 maximum

grant from the \$27,300 funding pool. Councillors ranked their preferred top 20 applications and staff collated the results to report back to Council at the August 13 meeting. As some of the applications are for smaller amounts, approximately 15 projects are expected to be successful.

## NBN tower

Council considered an application to erect a 40m NBN Co fixed wireless broadband monopole tower with antennae on the southern end of the Nimbin Showgrounds. There are some people vehemently opposed to towers and some who are desperate for better broadband coverage. Some may want fibre to the home or node instead but the reality is that wireless technology will be rolled out in non-urban areas.

I can assure readers that Councillors take our decisions seriously with site visits, reading of submissions and careful consideration of the issues. Each of us votes according to what we see as being in the best interests of the community, now and into the future.

## NAIDOC day July 4

Congratulations to the organisers of Nimbin's NAIDOC celebrations including the march, ceremony, speakers, dance, music and food. The event was very moving and the wreath laid in memory of those who fought in past wars while not

being recognised as humans, let alone citizens, was deeply symbolic of past wrongs.

The patience and grace of Aboriginal peoples is often severely tested, especially when your very existence as the first people on this land is questioned by our political leaders. Deep respect to you all.

## Young Songwriters

Again it was wonderful to be present with a large crowd at the Lismore Young Songwriters awards at Lismore City Bowlo.

From 63 entries, the 19 finalists were selected in 5 categories to perform before judges. Congratulations to all finalists and the following winners. Folk- Deana and Julia Batten, Indie/Rock- Tim Strong, Pop-Lali Gill, Punk/ Metal- Rose Wadsworth and Urban/Electronic-Jackson Reid. The Young Songwriters of the Year are Clee Worts and Ned Cain.

From next year, although Council will provide some funding, the competition will be run by Youth Connections North Coast and Head Space and be held in Youth Week.

## Blue Knob Farmers Market

Congratulations to all involved in the Blue Knob Farmers Market and the Pumpkin Festival which celebrated the 4th anniversary of the market. Unfortunately a late change of date for a regional Blood Donors presentation event meant I couldn't get to Blue Knob.

## Nannas, Benny and more

*Protest Songs- Artful Actions* is the latest exhibition at Lismore Regional Gallery. The show provides the opportunity to reflect on how visual and performance artists have played a key role in the big protest movements of our times.

Kezia Geddes from the Gallery has curated a brilliant show that fills all four downstairs spaces. Of course, Bentley and the Knitting Nanas feature prominently.

Upstairs, Anniq Goldenberg's time on the Wilson River have provided the materials for *Living Water: the river hid*, a wonderful exhibition using melting ice cubes of inked river water to create wonderful patterns on glass. The images are then digitally copied onto paper and linen. Do yourself a favour and see both shows.

## Poetry and Film

While on the Arts, I look forward to catching some of this year's Nimbin Poetry World Cup and then the Nimbin Youth Film competition on August 16. The Film Competition organiser and mentor Darmin Cameron did some sound recording with SBS's Rockwiz Backstage at Bluesfest. His Bentley film and this Bluesfest sound work cement his credentials in the local film industry.

# Simon says...



by Cr Simon Clough, Lismore City Council

It's been an extraordinary winter. I don't remember one like it with such cold dry conditions. One of my friends reported 10 consecutive days of frost at his property.

One of my main focuses at Council recently has been to work with other Councillors, staff and interested residents to develop a land management policy that effectively protects our endangered environmental communities, while not destroying our relationship with

the farming community by overwhelming that important sector with regulation. I'm hopeful that Council will eventually develop a mix of incentives and minimal backup regulation that will prove effective. Any ideas on this complex issue are always welcome.

Council continues its energy and greenhouse gas reduction action by installing its biggest solar hot water system yet, with hundreds of solar evacuated tubes now visible on the roof of the Lismore Memorial Baths.

The solar evacuated tube system is the final component in stage one of the Community Energy Efficiency Program, funded by the federal government and Council's Cities for Climate Protection Fund.

Altogether the energy efficient measures represent a collective saving of \$124,000 per year, which equates to 531,273 kilowatt hours. More importantly, it will reduce Council's CO2 emissions annually by 561 tonnes.

On the Gasfield Free Communities front, the Minister is continuing Metgasco's licence suspension and Metgasco will be returning to the Supreme Court in October to fight the Minister's decision.

Given the huge drain on police resources in November with the G20 in Brisbane, the demands of Christmas and the looming state election in March, it is hard to see how there will be any police resources available to try and get Metgasco into the Bentley site before

April/May 2015. What a shame!

Great to see the Labor Party listening to the people of the North Coast by passing a motion at its State Conference to halt unconventional gas drilling in the Northern Rivers.

It's a shame that the ALP ever allowed it to happen in the first place. But with ministers like Obedd and Macdonald what can you expect? To be fair, Chris Hartcher, the coalition's ex-minister for mining, is also under investigation by ICAC. There must be something about that ministry.

At Lismore's last Council meeting, Council accepted my motion for the annual Local Government Conference: that the Conference ask the NSW State Government to:

- Declare 'no-go zones' for mining and gas in our drinking water catchments and to protect our rivers, streams, wetlands and groundwater.
- Declare 'no-go zones' for mining and gas on our productive farmland and in areas where it will have a negative impact on local business.
- Declare 'no-go zones' for mining and gas development in our iconic wild places, conservation areas, State forests and travelling stock routes.
- Set strong limits on air, noise, water, and carbon pollution from coal and gas developments.

- Give landowners and local councils the right to refuse access to mining companies and to restoring the legal right for the community to appeal mining approvals in the courts.
- Put in place an independent, transparent and rigorous assessment of mining and gas projects and strengthen monitoring of existing operations and penalties for breaches.

The motion was voted against by Crs Meinke and Scheibel, both of whom stood on a no-gas platform at the last Council election!

Trish (my wife) and I have just returned from a 2,000km trip around Western NSW. I gave three talks about Bentley and the Gasfield Free initiative as well as doing training. We had a great reception and it is very clear that the people around the Pilliga and Maules Creek are in the fight for their livelihood and inevitably 'their' environment.

One farmer west of Burren Junction, who farms 8,000 acres and has large overheads and debts, said that even Santos (the miner) says their operations would lower his water bores by 14 metres. He said this would completely destroy his family's farming enterprise.

This is some of Australia's most productive farmland – hard to believe that a few brief years of fossil fuel energy exported overseas could get priority over food production for generations.

Stay warm and safe.

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