

STOP A COAL MINE NEXT TO BUNDY

Vs 3 – 1 Dec 19

Last year it was gas

Last year we successfully campaigned for the removal of the 3 shale gas mining licenses that covered the Wide Bay area. While those licenses no longer exist, the Qld government has the power to issue new licenses for shale gas mining at any time. So, the threat of this region being turned into yet another destructive, water guzzling gas-field still exists.

Now it is coal

Coal, with its total destruction of high-quality agricultural land, huge thirst for water, dust, traffic, 24-hour noise and light pollution, with its contaminated run-off water straight into the ocean. An open cut mine, continually expanding, with huge mountains of removed overburden.



The story so far:

- Coal underlies the area from Maryborough to Baffle Creek, south of Gladstone, and Coal Exploration Licences cover much of it. Last month a mining company applied for a Mining Development Lease (MDL) in North Bundaberg for a coking coal mine, the next step up¹.
- The area applied for starts at SSS Strawberries on the corner of the Gin Gin Road and Rosedale Road. It covers much of Moorlands, Meadowvale, Welcome Creek and Avondale.
- Once granted a MDL, the company can start to explore the coal deposits and find the best place to start the mine. The step after that would be to apply for a Mining Licence. Few Mining Licences have been refused. The best prevention is to stop a MDL being approved.
- In their financial documents the company cited the proximity to good roads, rail and ports and the quality of the coal deposits as their motivation for moving to a MDL.¹
- They commented on the fact that the tenement is covered by agriculture and close to environmentally sensitive areas but gave no indication that these facts would be a hindrance for their goal of developing the mine.
- Coal mines are large users of water and compete directly with local agriculture for water access. They apply for permits to take whatever amount of water they need for their operations and compete with other users: domestic, agriculture, environment, whatever.

¹ See: <http://foxresources.com.au/pdf/FXR-AGM-VER-A-10-August.pdf> Scroll down to Bundaberg Project -location

Our Bundy campaign

A campaign has been initiated to fight the North Bundaberg mine. It aims to make the mining company realise that the Wide Bay region is a strong agricultural community with high value, intensive agriculture. It is not a suitable place for a coal mine. We need to stop this mine from going ahead. This campaign will be intense and immediate.

But we need more. The basic problem is that there is no legislation which allows this, or any other mine or gasfield, to be refused in Qld. Given its location, environmental conditions will be placed on the mine, but the existing legislation won't stop it. Environmental conditions have been shown to be hard to police, difficult to enforce, and very costly to take to court.

The regional Planning Interest Act

The Regional Planning Interests Act should have the capacity to stop a mine which is located on prime ag land and will interfere with local water sources. However, in its current form it does not have that capacity. In fact, of the 42 applications for mining on ag land which have been processed under this act since 2014, all 42 were approved.

The problem is state-wide. Some examples are:

- Open cut coal mine proposed on strategic cropping land at Kingaroy.
- New Hope's stage 3 expansion, on Qld's top 1.5% of strategic cropping land at Acland.
- Shale gas and fracking in the Channel Country.
- Gasfields spread across the Western Downs region, and now spreading to the Surat basin.
- Open cut coal mine on strategic cropping land at Baralaba.

A state-wide campaign

A state-wide campaign was launched two weeks ago in Kingaroy. Please see the link below for a short video about the campaign². It comes from the heartland of Regional Queensland. We want changes to the Regional Planning Interest Act to offer TRUE protection of prime ag land and the water sources that agriculture relies on. This will be a long-term campaign. It has been launched in advance of the State election to make this an election issue. We'd love your support to drive this campaign and achieve real, long-term protection for agriculture.

What you can do?

Help us to make our campaign visible:

- Put a sticker on your car.
- Put a 'Lock the Gate' or a 'Plan to Grow' sign on your fence or gate.

(You can get signs from the 'Plan to Grow' website, or from *Northside Produce*, North Bundy, *Northern Ag Services* Rosedale Road, *MR B Fresh* Rosedale Road and *BFVG* Office.)

Join us for action at important times:

- Sign on to the 'Plan to Grow' charter <https://www.plantogrow.org.au/charter>
- Join up with friends and neighbours to form a working group - the 'Lock the Gate Alliance' can help.
- Become a 'Lock the Gate Alliance' volunteer.
- Become a 'Plan to Grow' Ambassador.
- 'Like' our pages on social media, 'Lock the Gate Alliance' and 'Plan to Grow Queensland' or follow us on Face Book³.

Signing on is important

We need 1,000's and 1,000's of people to join us. We need to show politicians what a very large number of regional people from all backgrounds want: TRUE protection of our prime ag land and water. When we work together, we can create positive change for our rural, regional and remote areas. We have already beaten shale gas. Let us stop this mine too.

Together we are unstoppable. *For further details please visit: www.plantogrow.org.au*

²<https://vimeo.com/363430849?fbclid=IwAR27gSgg6DgQ2uoF29H3dR0wC8e1N0MY9Wqhjm4yLL3mKmTEKHEWvbLovk4>

³ <https://www.facebook.com/CoalFreeWBBB/>