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It's go, go go: to create a coal and CSG Free Scenic rim



## Keep The Scenic Rim Scenic Update



Hello again,

It's been a while, but that certainly doesn't mean nothing is happening . It's just hard to find time to write!

**The big news - we're ramping up our campaign** to keep coal mines and coal seam gas (CSG) out of our Scenic Rim, in light of on-going evidence that mining companies are going ahead with plans for the region.

The companies say there is no impediment on mining in the Scenic Rim because the State government is yet to legislate to enforce it promise to protect our region.

### Coal and CSG Free Scenic Rim

**We need to show we are determined and united.**

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legislate to keep its promise. Through peaceful methods we will also continue to show miners they are not welcome here.

### How:

Forget re-inventing the wheel - **we're rolling out a highly successful NSW project**, which encourages people to vote to keep their streets, localities, villages and towns **Coal and CSG Free**. Resident surveys in the Northern Rivers saw 98%+ of people vote to keep their street CSG-Free. The results are transparent, conclusive and above board - concrete, irrefutable proof that we do not want to live with coal mines and CSG production. The *Coal/CSG Free Declaration* might not be legally enforceable, but it gives our Council and local members an overwhelming mandate. [Click here to learn more](#), including dates for information sessions near you. You might even be interested in helping survey your road.

### Why do we need to do this - the miners only want to explore?

Yes, it might only be exploration, but if mining companies can 'prove' a significant resource, they then have more ammunition to lobby our Government.

Their argument is the coal and gas belongs to the people of Queensland, so when the Government considers 'locking-up' the Scenic Rim, it is fore-saking royalties -- the fact that mining will change the character of the Scenic Rim forever, impacting on communities, water, agriculture, tourism and health does not seem to be part of the miner's consideration at this point.

It is important to remember that although mining is subject to tight regulation, no mine has ever been refused in Queensland. The companies just work with Government to tailor an Environmental Authority which allows them to proceed.

The adequacy of these EA's to protect communities, soil and water is questionable -- you only have to look to the Darling Downs and other coal mining communities to see EA's do not protect communities and environments from coal dust, water contamination, loss of farmland etc.

[Click here to see in inspirational you-tube link](#) which shows how communities in northern NSW rolled out their CSG Free Declarations - it's a campaign which sends a strong message, but it also brings us together - after all, should we not have the right to decide what kind of area we want to live in?

For those who'd like more, below you'll find a longer update of some of the happenings in

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Kind Regards,

your Keep the Scenic Rim Scenic organising team

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## And there's more!

- Allegiance Coal continues its **push for a coal mine just south of Boonah**
  - **Film/Info session** - How could a coal mine or CSG change your life?
  - **Linda Weston** gets her day **in court** - August 3, 2012. Consider being there to support her
  - **Walk Against Coal & CSG** - 5 days from Aug 13, join for a few hours, a day, come the finale
  - Are you comfortable with a **high-pressure gas pipeline** through Scenic Rim?
  - **SOS - Save our Scenic Rim**: our very own song to raise funds for this fight
  - We're getting out there - **awareness raising** on the streets
  - **Kerry Quarry** - the fight goes to court and a creative and **exciting fundraiser** at Nindooinbah
  - **Is CSG** activity, less than 200km from us, **making residents** of Tara and their **children sick**?
  - The **Condamine River** is **bubbling gas** - has CSG production nearby caused the damage?
  - **A flammable landholder bore in Queensland** - Government inspectors can't find gas. **See the footage to make up your own mind.**
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## Allegiance Coal continues its push for a coal mine just south of Boonah

Last month members of the Croftby community and Keep The Scenic Rim Scenic's committee met with Colin Randall, the Managing Director of Allegiance Coal to understand what the company plans for its site, just south of Boonah (Mineral Development Licence 138, known as Mintovale).

**Mr Randall said Allegiance Coal is going ahead with plans to 'prove' its mine will be viable, after being satisfied there is currently no legislative constraint on coal mining at Croftby.**

Allegiance Coal believes the Croftby mine has a potential production of around 4.5 million tonnes - 300,000 tonnes of high quality, high ash product per year for 15 years. Mr Randall indicated this is probably the smallest feasible mine size, so Allegiance Coal is

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Mr Randall did try to reassure the group that Allegiance would not proceed with a coal mine development without community support... but when quizzed further about what "community support" or a "social contract", it became clear that this simply boils down to being able to reach agreement with the landholders within the MDL.

Allegiance Coal will need to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement as part of any application for a Mining Lease, but Mr Randall showed little interest in the possible impact of the mine on the surrounding communities and the local environment. Instead, he spoke about benefits such as employment of up to 30 people as machinery operators etc., and possible contributions to Council for road upgrades or other infrastructure. When quizzed about other benefits, Mr Randall appeared hard pressed to come up with anything further

**The implications for you, if you live near Boonah or travel from there to Beaudesert:**

People in the mine site would get bought out, but what about others who live in the surrounding 10-20-km and beyond? A visit to existing mines in Qld or elsewhere shows surrounding residents can be severely impacted by **coal dust** (major health implications), **noise** from the mine and trucks, **lights** etc.

**Trucks, trucks, trucks** - to get the coal and gravel out, massive b-double trucks will need to go **through Boonah** (past the primary school), en-route to Bromleton, near **Beaudesert**, to be loaded onto rail transport. The truck traffic is a major issue in its own right, as is the coal dust which comes off such loads. They are mostly uncovered and the dust is a major health issue. Chronic **asthma and respiratory disease** in coal mining communities is evidence of this.

**What's next** - Allegiance Coal plans to begin **negotiating access** and compensation agreements with those in the MDL as early as **October 2012**.

**This is one of the reasons we think it is important to united united and say NO : "Lock the Gate", "Lock the Street", "Lock Croftby".**

Mining companies do not like confrontation: they'll huff and puff to threaten and intimidate. We believe there is only one Australian case of a coal miner taking people to court to force entry (we believe no instances of court action have occurred in relation to CSG drilling). It is also important to remember a case will never go straight to court - by law, mediation comes first, so the threats of court may be a little premature and designed to intimidate.

[Click here to see more information from the Croftby Community Group](#), including how you can help...

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## Film/Info sessions -

### How could a coal mine or coal seam gas production change your life?

**Ipswich** Thursday August 14 - Humanities Building, 56 South St 6pm (part of the finale to Linda Weston's Walk Against Coal and Gas)

**Boonah** September 13 - venue and time to be confirmed

**Beaudesert** September 14 - venue and time to be confirmed

These information/film evenings **include** a showing of the renowned Australian **documentary Brimblebox** and an **author talk** from Sharyn Munro, who travelled Australia's mining communities. Her book **Rich Land Waste Land** exposes the true costs of coal mining and coal seam gas on our communities.

Both the film and Sharyn's experiences explain the impact of coal and gas mining on farming communities: sad examples of towns which are dying, as homeowners and farmers are forced out by mining - broken in spirit and health; once reliable rivers and aquifers which are drying up or polluted and once fertile farmland now unusable. All too often we hear how good mining is for communities - this is your opportunity to see first-hand the other side, all-too-often hidden and silenced in the name of boosting our economy. [Learn more](#) -

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## Linda Weston's day in court - Aug 3, 2012

### Consider being there to support her

Boonah resident Linda Weston will appear in the Ipswich Magistrates Court on Friday August 3 at 9am on a charge of allegedly obstructing an Arrow Energy drilling operation at Silverdale, during a flash action during last January's Kerry Blockade.

Linda is only the second person in Queensland to face prosecution under the Petroleum and Gas Act. A full day has been set aside for the trial, ordered by the magistrate after the police failed to provide information requested by the defense. Linda has yet to enter a plea. **Please think about attending to show your support for Linda's brave actions**

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## Walk Against Coal and CSG - five days from August 13, Join in for a few hours or a day, come to the finale

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It started as a little idea from our northern NSW neighbours - to walk the planned gas pipeline from Casino to Swanbank, Ipswich. Then Boonah's Linda Weston offered to take the baton from the NSW border -- and now it's taken on a life of its own.

Linda's 100+km walk starts on August 13, from the Lion's Road border crossing, through Christmas Creek Valley, Bromelton, Beaudesert and on to Swanbank. You can join the walk for a few hours, or spend an evening at the moving Camp as it makes its way through the Scenic Rim over five days. [Email Linda](#) for her latest itinerary or watch [keepthescenicrimscenic.com](http://keepthescenicrimscenic.com) for updates to see if you can join in for a bit.

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## A high-pressure gas pipeline through Scenic Rim? Are you comfortable with it? Learn why we're worried

Metgasco is the company planning to put a **high-pressure gas pipeline from Casino to Swanbank**. Sounds harmless enough, but the pipeline may in the future be used to export gas from Scenic Rim (if Government moves to 'protect' our region fail). We have other concerns, including:

- impacts on farm operations and high-quality farmland, including the dairy flats of Christmas Creek. The line is buried, but it involves clearing a 30m corridor (min) with limited landholder crossing points. Landholders on the Western Downs have experienced how the process can go wrong, including long-term construction delays and the inadvertent creation of a wild dog corridor. Celia Mackay has lost everything - she is now selling up what she has left, to fund a legal fight with the pipeline company. [Click to see the news story.](#)

- The company behind the planned Scenic Rim pipeline - Metgasco - is facing its own issues in NSW, where it has been reprimanded for illegally dumping CSG waste water into the Casino Sewer system, fined for an inadequate waste water management plan and ordered to reduce the levels in its waste water dams to prevent overflowing of this highly saline, often toxic, waste water. [Learn more](#)

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## SAVE OUR SCENIC RIM, SAVE OUR SUNBURNT LAND SONG RELEASE ... by Boonah's Linda Weston and Cameron Mitchell

Linda Weston and Cameron Mitchell from Boonah have done us proud, with an incredible sets of songs to highlight our fight. SOS was inspired during Linda's hours in the lock-up after being arrested for blockading the Silverdale Rig during the Kerry blockade. After-all,

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All 8 versions of SOS are now available for [preview on soundcloud](#)... We encourage all to support this song by sharing with friends and then buying a copy from itunes (search The Camoeron Complex) ...profits are to be split between Keep the Scenic Rim Scenic and Lock the Gate - the alliance of community groups like ours, formed to protect regions from the influx of mining.

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### **We're getting out there - awareness raising on the streets**

Boonah residents Rob and Linda Weston and other KTSRS members have been hard at work, raising awareness about the on-going threat to our region, with information stalls at World Environment Day, Beechmont's Zest Fest, Boonah's Eat Local Week and even a regular spot on the Boonah high street. Let us know if you're also interested in helping with an information stall in your part of our shire.

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### **Kerry Quarry - funding a court fight with an exciting fundraiser**

The once-busy woolshed at Nindooobah, Kerry, will be the venue for a unique art exhibition on the first weekend in September -- part of ongoing fundraising to oppose a court-challenge by the developer, who is fighting Council's decision to knock-back the mega quarry application.

Artists from the local area and Brisbane have been invited to show their work in the restored heritage woolshed. The weekend will begin with a cocktail party on Saturday night, followed by a "high tea in the morning" from 9-11 a.m. on the Sunday. Bookings for both are essential. ph 0437 787 262 or 0431 326 724. [More info on facebook too](#) -

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### **In the media - click on the links**

- Is CSG production, less than 200km from here, making residents of Tara and their children sick? [ABC online](#), [ABC Blogs](#), [Interview ABC radio](#).
- The Condamine River is bubbling like a spa - has coal seam gas production nearby caused the damage? [Article from 'The Conversation'](#).
- The first flammable landholder bore in Queensland, but Government inspectors can't find gas. [See the footage to make up your own mind](#).

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implications - some great listening:

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**Arrow Energy can come back at any time to continue exploration.**

**As such, we ask you to please keep a look out for drill rigs in your part of our shire.**

### and stickers

Getting a sign up on your house and a sticker on your bumper is a great, easy way to raise awareness

Buy one from [local outlets](#)

### Give a donation

**Help keep your campaign to stop coal seam gas going!**

We beg and borrow whatever we can, but leaflet printing and other expenses all add up. Any amount is appreciated :-)

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