



## **CAMPAIGN BRIEFING NOTE:**

### **Our Land, Our Water, Our Future**

#### **What is Our Land, Our Water Our Future and why does it exist?**

- The Our Land, Our Water, Our Future campaign comes from an appreciation of the old adage – “united we stand, divided we fall”. As we head toward the next state election in 2015 the campaign has been created to build a common voice for the countless communities that are standing up to protect the places they love from coal and gas. By joining together we are building a movement that is greater than the sum of its parts and that has the potential to change the rules that govern mining in this State.
- There has been a rampant and reckless expansion of coal and gas mining across NSW. Communities are under siege. 80% of the state is covered by mining licences and applications.
- The coal and gas industries are destroying some of best farmland and special wild places, polluting and depleting our clean water and harming our health. The big coal and gas companies have far too much influence over government and the rules are rigged in their favour.
- For many small rural communities that find themselves confronted by large multinational mining companies, the experience can be overwhelming. Time and time again we have seen the financial and political muscle of the coal and gas industries trample over the rights of communities. In some cases, whole villages simply disappear off the map.
- The campaign was started after it became clear that the O’Farrell Government was going to break its election promises to rule out agricultural areas and sensitive environmental areas from coal and gas development – effectively betraying farmers, rural communities and the wider NSW community.
- The community has now said “enough is enough” and is demanding that the things we value — our land, water and futures — be put ahead of the short-term interests of the largely foreign-owned coal and gas companies.
- The campaign is an expression of that sense of betrayal and outrage and a focal point for communicating the community’s demands to government.



## **What is the goal of the Our Land, Our Water, Our Future campaign?**

In a nutshell, our goal is to achieve legislative reform that would see no-go zones put in place to protect farmland and rural industries, water resources, special wild places, and residential communities from coal and gas.

Alongside this, we want the government to restore the community's fundamental rights to say no to mining and to appeal against coal and gas projects that would damage their land, water and futures.

## **Who is Our Land, Our Water, Our Future?**

The core strength of this campaign is that it is a genuine expression of the community. It includes people from all walks of life, from the bush and city, and crosses party-political lines.

Founding partners of the campaign include The Nature Conservation Council of NSW, The Lock the Gate Alliance and The Sunrise Project, but around 100 groups across NSW have signed up to support the campaign. You can see a full list of [campaign partners](#).

## **Where can I find out more?**

Go to [www.landwaterfuture.org.au](http://www.landwaterfuture.org.au). You'll find a full list of [campaign partners](#), you can also read more about the problems of coal and gas expansion in NSW, or learn about the campaign demands and our proposed solutions.

You can sign up for campaign updates on the website or if you'd like more information email us at [info@landwaterfuture.org.au](mailto:info@landwaterfuture.org.au)