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## Communities hit the roads to fight coal seam gas

by Len Martin

Imagine a dynamic map of a web of CSG-free-roads ever-expanding across NSW, engulfing the proposed web of CSG wells and backed by documentary evidence of 99.31% community opposition to CSG.

Increasingly we see the CSG industry suggesting the only opposition comes from "environmental activists". Tell that to Keerong Gas Squad and the Rock Valley Anti-CSG groups. As we locals well know, it is whole communities that oppose the CSG industry – communities who do not want their landscapes devastated, their water, pastures and stock poisoned, their beloved farms turned into industrial wastelands, their physical and mental health compromised and their communities destroyed.

The CSG-free-roads strategy is part of our CSG-Free Northern Rivers campaign. I believe that it is the most important strategy – one that will force local politicians to act for their constituents rather than the party bosses – and it is already going viral. The campaign is not aligned to any political party. CSG-free Roads arose locally. Annie Kia developed the strategy with others in the course of working up the CSG-Free Northern Rivers pledge – see the website [www.csgfreenorthernrivers.org](http://www.csgfreenorthernrivers.org) for details.

Annie organised a Channon pilot to iron out problems, figure how best to work – and wow, does it ever. "At a 25th Feb public meeting in The Channon hall, 119 people said 'yes' when asked if they wanted to declare their roads Coal Seam Gas-free. One person was 'not sure'. Not one hand was raised against the proposal. They formed into community working groups and set out to survey households on roads leading to The Channon. The groups did brilliantly, surveying almost every household.

To the question "Do you want your roads/land to be CSG-free?" two said no, one was not

Residents along the Lions Road were among the first to declare their road CSG-free last year.

sure and 429 said yes – 99.31%. Soon, Gasfield-free road signs will appear on Rose, Wallace, Terania Ck, Tuntabule Ck, Koonorigan and The Channon Roads. The little side roads are in too. All these are now CSG-free by majority decision of residents. At Keerrong Hall on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 101 voted to make Keerrong and Pinchin CSG-free too, none against 100%. A Dunoon group has already started on local roads. Ian Dixon from Tuntabule MO has the survey going on Newton, Upper Tuntabule and other roads round there. People at Drake and Kyogle want to do it.

We now aim to declare Nimbin Rd from Lismore to Nimbin CSG-free, with public meetings organised for 2.30pm Saturday April 21st at Goolmangar Hall and 2.30pm Sunday 22nd at Nimbin Bowlo. The plan for each is to start with afternoon tea and cakes for fundraising and chat; show the Northern Rivers CSG film; briefly discuss why CSG-free roads are a good idea; check overall response of audience – how many agree, disagree, not sure. Then encourage and help locals organise groups to survey local roads – which involves distributing fliers, DVDs, completing survey forms etc. We will provide the kits. Looks like I'll be in the chair at Nimbin.

Goolmangarians feel **very** strongly about CSG and a highly respected member of the Goolmangar community is the likely chair there, and a namesake of mine will be publicising the meeting. Meanwhile, I am contact person for both meetings. Someone from Coffee Camp has already gone viral, distributing anti-CSG DVDs along Nimbin Road – please contact me to share information.

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## NSW police seize medical supplies



by Phil Williams

The NSW Police have descended by chopper and confiscated the medical cannabis crop of Mullaways Medical Cannabis; a strain of cannabis specifically bred by Mullaways for extraction into medical tincture.

Directors of the company say that 300 chronically ill and dying patients will now be deprived of this medicine, used for the relief of pain and suffering. Many of these patients have been using Mullaways Medical Cannabis Tincture for years, with letters of support from their doctors to use the tincture.

Mullaways is the only company in Australia providing medical cannabis. The only other avenue for patients to access medical cannabis is through the iron-walled Commonwealth Government's Special Access Scheme, which is a long and expensive process.

Mr Tony Bower, Managing

Tony Bowers standing in the bare medicinal cannabis growing plot after the police raid. Each of the plants was a specially-developed strain, labelled with a patient's identifying tag; all were removed and discarded by police.

Director of Mullaways Medical Cannabis Pty Ltd, maintains that he has complied with all government requirements for the past three years to get his company up and running and to get this medicine to the dying and chronically ill people who need it, free of charge.

"I have worked tirelessly to try to bring my medical cannabis tincture under Commonwealth and International health laws, however I continue to be blocked and treated with disrespect by the NSW government," he said.

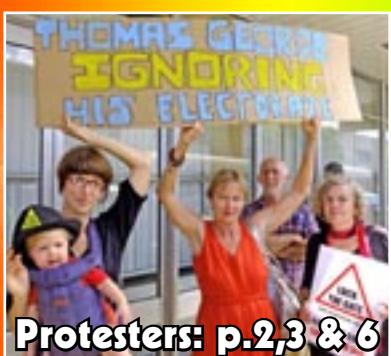
Greens MP John Kaye said on 29th August last year, "It is clear that in the case of Mr Bower, road blocks have been thrown up that would not have been there if he had been a multinational pharmaceutical company, or

if the primary seedstock were not related to a recreational drug."

Mr Bower intends to vigorously defend the police charges, including challenging the validity of the search warrant obtained by police to enter his property and the seizure of over 200 medical cannabis plants and business records.

He said, "What the police have done is illegal and the warrant was obtained by deception. I expect everything to be returned and the charges to be dropped at the first court appearance on 16th April. I also expect the business to be fully compensated and my wife and I to be compensated for being illegally detained and assaulted. Our small dog was even kicked by one of the police."

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Skinheads: p. 7



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