

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

The Hon. Rob Stokes, MP  
Minister for Planning  
GPO Box 5341  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Stokes

**Re: the Draft North Coast Regional Plan**

I am a resident of the North Coast region and I believe the Baird Government is to be congratulated for its \$25 million purchase of the Metgasco licences in the Clarence Moreton Basin within the Northern Rivers.

The Draft North Coast Regional Plan states that the NSW Department of Industry is mapping coal and coal seam gas resources in the region in order to **"inform future regional and local planning by providing updated information on the location of resources"**. The report also states this information **"can support expansion of the sector."**

The people of the Northern Rivers have resoundingly rejected the development of gasfields in our region. Over 95% of 33,670 people surveyed said 'No' to gas and 147 communities have declared themselves 'Gasfield Free'.

The Draft Regional Plan makes it clear that coal seam and unconventional gas development is still being considered, despite the buyback of exploration licences from the Queensland border to Grafton. At this stage there is nothing to prevent these licences being re-issued and there is a need for clear and permanent protection for the Region from the threat of gas development.

I welcome your commitment to "...ensure that the final plan makes it manifestly clear that coal seam gas resources on the North Coast will remain in the ground".

I request that you:

- 1. Remove all references to the development of the coal seam and unconventional gas industry from the Final Report.**
- 2. Include in the Final Report a clear statement prohibiting further exploration or mining of gas for the life of the Plan.**
- 3. Introduce legislation to permanently protect the Northern Rivers and all of the North Coast Region from invasive industrial gasfields.**

**Yours Sincerely,**

**Date:**