

Name: Robert Brace

Address: 32 Mount Street,

Kyogle NSW 2474

Director Regions,  
Northern,  
Locked Bag 9022  
Grafton NSW 2460

Dear Madam/Sir

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

I am a resident of the North Coast and wish to make a submission on the **Draft North Coast Regional Plan**.

I should first of all like to take this opportunity to thank the Baird Government for buying back the CSG licences on the North Coast of NSW.

However, the Draft 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 – we also need statutory protection against the issue of new exploration licences within the draft plan

I welcome the commitment from the Minister for Planning the Hon. Rob Stokes that he will “...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. Give an undertaking to provide statutory protection to prevent the issue of new exploration licences.**
- 4. Make a commitment to support and encourage the development of the renewable energy sector and state this clearly in the final**

Yours Sincerely,

Date: 12.5.2016