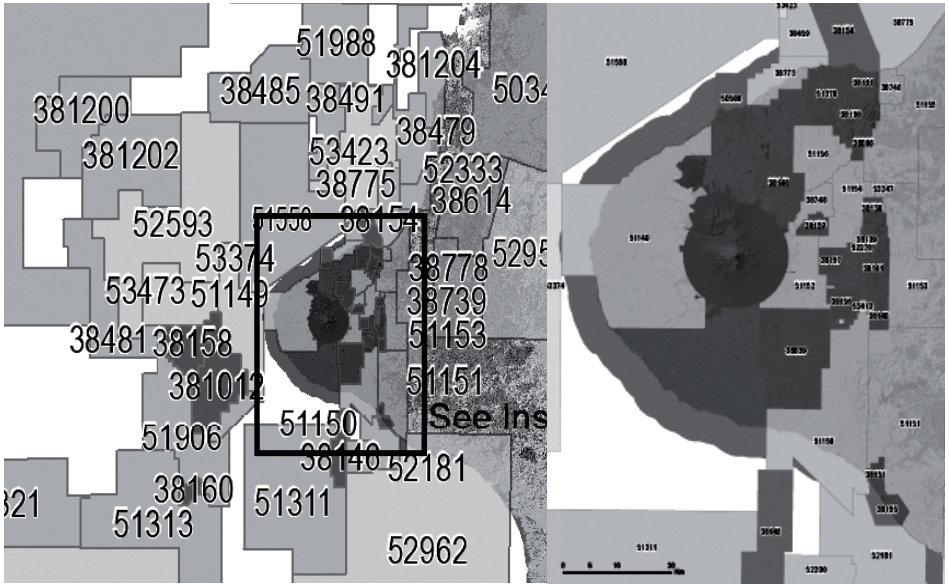
ACTION AGAINST EXTRACTION

A SUSTAINABLE AND BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN

OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION IN TARANAKI

Taranaki has a long history in the petrochemical industry dating back to the 1860's and there is no doubt that our region has prospered as a result our significant hydrocarbon deposits.

However in the last few years there has been a huge expansion in oil and gas exploration in our region. There are 30 new exploration permits: 13 new onshore/coastal permits, 15 new offshore permits and 2 permit applications are pending. The total number of new and existing permits now covers 80% of the Taranaki region. Climate Justice Taranaki is concerned about the potential risks and environmental impact of this increased fossil fuel extraction activity.



NZ Petroleum permits (Taranaki), March 2011. www.crownminerals.govt.nz

For more information:

Climate Justice Taranaki: http://climatejusticetaranaki.wordpress.com

No Drilling Aotearoa: http://www.nodrilling.org.nz

"Stop Drilling in Taranaki" facebook group

Why should we be concerned about fossil fuel exploration & extraction?

Seismic Surveying – Off-shore seismic surveying involves blasting air guns under water, which studies have shown can be harmful to marine mammals and other marine life including disturbing their navigation and causing strandings.

Onshore Drilling – Wastes can pollute soils, water and the air. Drilling can contaminate aquifers and damage waahi tapu. Other concerns include storm water run-off and migration of contaminants down through the soil into ground water.

Fracking (Hydraulic Fracturing) – Involves injecting water, sand and chemicals into rock formations at high pressure to force out oil and natural gas. It has been banned in France and some states in America due to increasing evidence that 'fracking' is contaminating the air and fresh water aquifers causing death and serious health problems to people and animals.

Deep Well Injection - A liquid waste disposal technology that injects hazardous wastes into geologic formations. Major potential problems associated with this practice are the contamination of future natural resources and adverse geological responses. There is evidence that deep well injection causes earthquakes.

Landfarming – A waste disposal technique that buries contaminated soils, sediments, or sludges into the soil surface. The possible leaching of toxic substances from the contaminated soil into the ground and groundwater is a major concern.

Offshore Drilling - According to a new risk assessment by Maritime NZ, Taranaki is now rated the highest-risk region in New Zealand for the likelihood of a marine oil spill of up to 1000 tonnes occurring. To compound this risk companies are willing to drill the most difficult, dangerous and remote deepwater sites as the economic return becomes more rewarding due to increased shortage. In the Gulf of Mexico disaster, the US had a total of more than 40,000 emergency personnel. According to our government, our team of trained responders totals 400. New Zealand has the lowest safety standards in the OECD.

Climate Change – The buring of fossil fuels contributes to chaotic weather changes associated with climate change including erosion, droughts, floods, environmental refugees, increased pests and diseases.

Transition from Fossil Fuels – Plan for a future without fossil fuels and invest in renewable and clean technologies that don't pollute. We could mobilise our highly capable petrochemical service industry in Taranaki to make our region the leader in green energy and technologies. We can create a more sustainable and brighter future for our children and future generations, including cleaner air and water.