

Community Joint Statement on Fracking

An alliance of environmental groups, hapu and businesses has united to express grave concerns about hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and demand its ban or moratorium nationwide.

Fracking is inherently risky. When the entire process – including fracking associated drilling, production, transport, waste disposal and well abandonment – is considered, the risks are far-reaching and serious. There are ample cases, in the US and Australia, of water and soil contamination, air pollution and health problems associated with fracking. In New Zealand, there have only been a few documented cases because the current regulatory, monitoring and reporting regime is inadequate to fully reveal the extent of the issues. These are in line with the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment's three findings relating to government oversight and regulation: "*Oversight is complex and fragmented; regulation may be too light-handed; and a 'social licence' to operate is yet to be earned*" (PCE interim report on fracking, Nov 2012).

Our Concerns

We have grave concerns about the use of fracking in the oil, gas and coal seam gas industries in NZ:

- Fracking can poison our water, pollutes our air and contaminates our soil, threatening human and animal health.
- Fracking can harm our farming, tourism and other industries that are reliant on our clean, green environment and healthy communities.
- Fracking delays the transition to renewable energies and exacerbates climate change.

Our Demand

Based on the precautionary principle, members of the alliance demand either:

- a total ban on all fracking operations in NZ, or
- a moratorium on all fracking operations in NZ, until it can be proven that fracking is safe for people and the environment, and the necessary regulatory regime is in place.

Call to Lock the Gate

We call on communities and landowners to Lock the Gate – declare their areas 'frack free' and deny access to oil and gas companies.

Call for Real Solutions

We urge the NZ government, communities and businesses to move onto developing effective energy transition strategies, affordable public transport systems, and sustainable agriculture that do not rely heavily on petrochemicals.

Statement Jointly Issued on 27 November 2012 by:

350 Aotearoa

Avonstour Heritage Farm, Taranaki

Climate Justice Aotearoa

Climate Justice Taranaki

Coal Action Network Aotearoa

Don't Frack the Bay

ECO – Environment and Conservation Organisations of Aotearoa New Zealand

Frack Free Aotearoa New Zealand
Frack-Free Bay of Plenty
Frack-Free Canterbury
Frack-Free Tairāwhiti
Kanihi-Umutahi Hapu of Ngaruahinerangi
People of Parihaka
Pesticide Action Network Aotearoa New Zealand
Smart Organics
Sustainable Whanganui Trust

Signatories confirmed after issuance of the statement:

Ahi Ka Action Group
Greenpeace
Poutama First Nation

Other organisations, communities and landowners are invited to join the alliance. Contact any of the above groups for details. The statement with its signatories will be updated regularly on <http://climatejusticetaranaki.wordpress.com/resources/>