

Climate Justice Taranaki Newsletter 31 August 2011

Tena koutou katoa e hoa ma,

Well as many of you will have heard, the government released their [Energy Strategy 2011-2021](#) yesterday and it has of course come under fire by environmental and community groups. The plan focuses on the massive increase in fossil fuel extraction we've all been protesting against, and while talking about 90% renewable energy by 2025, offers very little in the way of a plan for how to actually achieve that. So yip, we need to keep raising our voices to let those in power know what we want, and get out there and make sure it happens by organising in our communities.

So come to our next organising meeting this Monday, September 5th and help us get some traction as we gear up for a busy spring and summer. Email us at climatejusticetaranaki@riseup.net for more info.

For now an update below on the past few weeks' activities and achievements:

* [Resource Consents are now needed for fracking](#) by petroleum companies by the Taranaki Regional council. We can only presume this is a direct result from all our objections to the new and dangerous fracking technique used when drilling. The Green Party are now calling for a moratorium on fracking. We are calling for a complete ban, as has been imposed in France.

* Sadly the first fracking waste dump has been designated for Waitara. We have been talking with the community board there and a local hapu. We are waiting on more information from the regional council.

* Parihaka says 'no' to oil and gas exploration in a letter sent to the UN, the government and various petroleum companies. The detailed letter was signed by a rangatira witness from each of the three houses after many long discussions at the monthly Raa meetings. See here for the full letter <http://www.indymedia.org.nz/> Discussions continue as the people worry about possible fracking upstream and much more offshore drilling.

* An awesome 'Artists and activists' wananga at Poupatate Marae near Palmerston North was held recently and produced a number of striking art-placards, some t-shirt stencils and a protest song featuring Horomona Horo and Lady Sheeq. The art will be arriving in Taranaki soon so keep an eye out. We hope to get the song up on youtube soon.

* Climate Justice Wellington are super keen to help us out in Taranaki and we are discussing some joint ideas including a possible climate camp later this year (eg. <http://climatecamp.org.uk/>). We will keep you posted.

* A legal challenge has been filed against the government in regards to ownership of the EEZ (the 12-200 nautical mile zone around the country) by some Taranaki elders and possibly other iwi. The argument is for the area to be owned by Maori, protected by government and open to all people, except around any existing or proposed drill sites, so that Maori can have more say in protecting the areas. The case will be heard in the November sitting of the Maori Land Court.

* The [Regional Freshwater Plan](#) is up for review soon by the Regional Council and we have asked to be involved as a key stakeholder group. Hopefully this will allow us more space to discuss our concerns around drilling and frack waste and other problems such as effluent and fertiliser runoff.

* We are hoping to hold public meetings around the mountain soon. If you'd like to help host one please email us.

* There has been heaps of media lately around the country's drilling issues, in particular fracking. See our website for continual updates on the latest climate justice news and views from across the country and worldwide <http://climatejusticetaranaki.wordpress.com/> Mostly notably, read Tracey Barnett's "[What the frack is Govt thinking?](#)" in NZ Herald (Aug5), followed by Strattera policy analyst Bernie Napp's rebuttal "[Fraction too much fiction about fracking](#)" (Aug 8), then "[Public divided over fracking risk](#)" noting hydrologist Karl Browne's advice (Aug 9), and listen to Nation Radio interview "[Opponents say fracking risks water contamination](#)" (Aug 8) and "[Concerned about the use of fracking](#)" (Aug 16).

* Lastly, a reminder that if you haven't signed the petition to stop offshore oil drilling and new coal mining then please do. Go to <http://www.greenpeace.org/new-zealand/en/take-action/Take-action-online/No-New-Oil-or-Coal/>

Nga mihi mahana,

Climate Justice Taranaki

<http://climatejusticetaranaki.wordpress.com/>

http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_205878806095057

<http://nodrilling.wordpress.com/taranaki/>