

# New Taranaki Oil & Gas Fields

## Stop the drilling!

*Ko Ranginui e tu nei, ko Paptuanuku e takoto nei. Tihē mouri ora.  
The earth and sky are one. Damage to one is damage to both and all of us inbetween. We are all connected.*

A MASSIVE NUMBER of new onshore and offshore oil, coal and gas exploration permits have recently been awarded to several companies by the NZ government. This means seismic surveying and drilling that can damage waahi tapu, contaminate water, air and soil and harm wildlife, fisheries, agriculture and workers. It also means a major increase in greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change.

Oil, coal and gas production has been going on in Aotearoa for decades but new, more damaging and more dangerous techniques are now being used, with insufficient protections in place. The new exploration permits cover an area 42 times that which is currently being mined across most of Aotearoa, focussing intensely on Taranaki oil and gas.



GreenpeaceNZ 2011

Hapu, iwi and community groups are organising across Aotearoa and the world to stop fossil fuel extraction. Together we are winning because people now see that the costs are just too high compared to the short-term rewards. We are supposed to be turning away from fossil fuels not increasing production. We must reduce our energy use and switch to low-impact, community-controlled renewable energy to protect the wellbeing of all on this planet, now and in the future.

## The Taranaki Permits

Taranaki already has the highest number of onshore and offshore oil and gas drillsites in the country.

There are 13 new onshore permits that allow about 80% of the region to be 'explored'. The companies include Greymouth Petroleum, Kea Petroleum, TAG Oil, Green Gate, L&M Energy, STOS, Todd Energy, CUE, Mosaic, Shell, Mighty River Power and OMV.

Surveying and toxic waste landfarming is mostly being done by local company BTW Ltd.

There are also about 15 new offshore permits off the Taranaki coast that, including areas already being mined there, cover an area about the size of the north island. The companies include many of those above plus AWE, Origin, Mitsui E&P, NZOG, Pan Pacific, Octanex and Westech.

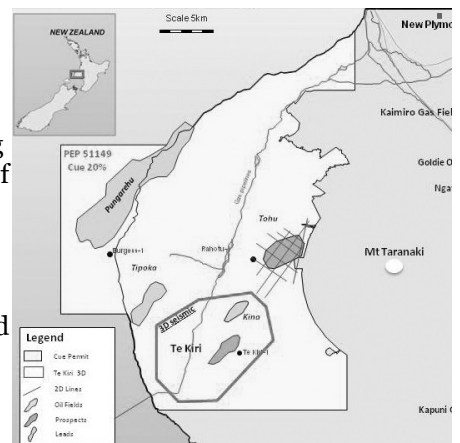
Timing of permits differ but most seismic surveying has been completed and some test drilling has begun with all of it meant to be completed by 2012 or 2013 before they might apply for longer term production permits. See [www.nzpam.govt.nz](http://www.nzpam.govt.nz) for information changes.

### AN OFFSHORE EXAMPLE: PEP 38451 - 'Deepwater Taranaki'

The 'Deepwater Taranaki' permit is owned and operated by Anadarko with part-ownership from other companies including AWE and Hyundai Hysco. This permit covers an area about twice the size of Fiordland, northwest of Taranaki. They are planning an exploration well in 2012 if they can secure a drillship and financial support. Another deepsea exploration well Anadarko helped run was the Deepwater Horizon well which exploded and killed 11 workers and released 4.9 million barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico in 2011, resulting in the death of most marine life and a major fishing industry.

### AN ONSHORE EXAMPLE: PEP 51149 - 'Tohu'

'Tohu', is an onshore and nearshore exploration permit stretching from just south of New Plymouth almost to Opunake, out into the sea near Cape Egmont and inland to the National Park boundary. It is owned and



operated by Todd Energy with owner-partners Cue Energy (based in Melbourne), Mighty River Power and Queensland's Mosaic Oil. There are several gas and oil prospects in this area: Te Kiri, Kina, Tipoka, Tohu (near Newall Rd) and Pungarehu (from about Okato to around Cape Egmont).

The last of the seismic surveying should have been completed this year and six test wells were 'quietly' drilled at Te Kiri. Todd say they plan to drill several test wells at Pungarehu soon in "higher risk stratigraphic play" which could possibly mean fracking.



## OIL SPILLS

“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... Already there have been spills... In 2000 Fletcher Challenge spilled up to 50 litres of condensate in the Pohokura field off Motunui, which spread along two kilometres of beach. Then in 2007 an estimated 33 tonnes of oil was spilled in the Tui field off the western Taranaki coastline, and 23 tonnes came ashore along 14 kilometres of coastline. In November [2010] oil spilled in the Maari field off Taranaki’s south-west coast, and it washed up on Kapiti coast beaches.” - *Taranaki Daily News Feb 2, 2011.*



There was a fourth major oil spill late 2011 from an over-turned tanker where 24,000 litres went into the Awakino River just before whitebait season with only 3,000 litres recovered.

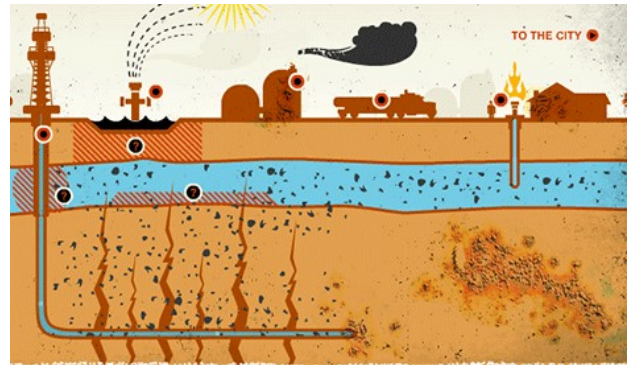
Oilspills are impossible to clean up completely and unrecovered oil poisons sea water, seabeds and beach ecosystems and kills marinelife. Because governments only ask for a tiny mitigation insurance (and poor monitoring, safety checks and clean up standards), the cleanup work and its costs are often carried by local communities who also lose their fishing and recreation grounds. This year we saw several large starved whales beach on our west coast and massive flocks of starving seabirds came ashore. This is very unusual and could be linked to killoffs of zooplankton and other species, as seen in the Gulf of Mexico after the spill.

## DRILLING DAMAGE

Not just bush and landscape clearance, more roading, erosion, stream damage, noise pollution, visual pollution, increased traffic, damage to waahi tapu and worker hazards but groundwater, air and soil contamination from drilling fluids and extracted hydrocarbons. Seismic surveys require drilling and firing of shallow explosives too.

The most worrying of all is a new and dangerous technique called hydraulic fracturing (‘fracking’), which pumps large amounts of deisel or water, sand and

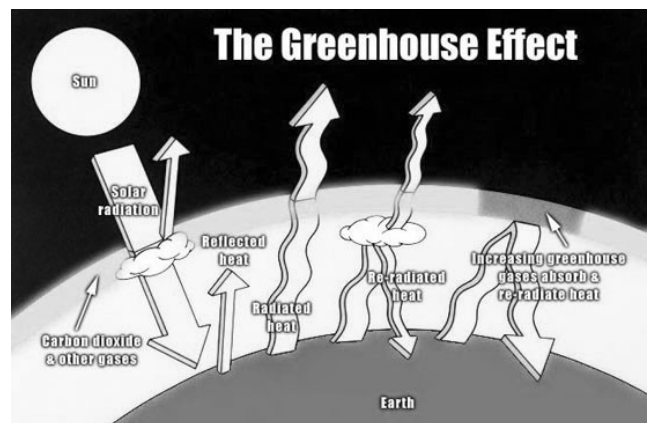
about 3% highly toxic chemicals underground at high pressure to fracture the rock strata. This technique has found to deplete and contaminate aquifers overseas, releasing the highly toxic chemicals and explosive gases into drinking water supplies. It also has been proven to cause small earthquakes.



A fracking disaster: [www.GasLandThe Movie.com](http://www.GasLandThe Movie.com)

In NZ, toxic drilling/frack waste is 'landfarmed' (spreading it under topsoil to "dilute" into farm soils and shallow aquifers) or put back underground in a process called 'deepwell injection'. 'Produced water' is often allowed to be discharged into waterways. Dilution is not the solution! There are moratoriums on fracking in several countries now and it is banned in France.

## CLIMATE CHANGE and



Oil and coal are major greenhouse gas emitting fuels, with methane gas and its nitrous-oxide emitting by-product urea, being *more* harmful to the atmosphere than carbon dioxide.



Already the world is experiencing sea-level rise and evacuation of low-lying coastal communities, increased extreme and unusual weather events such as cyclones and droughts, spreading desertification, an increase in disease outbreaks and the largest mass extinction of species in geological history. This is resulting in failed crops, millions of environmental refugees and further economic and social injustice across the globe.



# Resistance

*While there's heaps of terrible stuff going on, we mustn't give up and stop working for a world where we all can live in peace and freedom in a healthy environment. Here are some actions you can take to help:*

## Get smart

Learn more about the issues and learn the facts so you can challenge the arguments better and explain things to others. Our website, facebook group and newsletter are good places to start or do your own research if you're really keen. We need as many of us to work on these issues, from as many angles as possible.

## Speak up

Talk to your friends and whanau, organise a public meeting or film screening of Gasland, write letters to the paper, call talkback radio, blog, sign the petitions, make a sign for your property or workplace, display a bumper sticker or wear your thoughts on a t-shirt or badge. Take your concerns to your community board and council.



## Organise your Community

Join a group and get busy educating your community and taking action. Working together makes it easier and more enjoyable and is way more powerful than going it alone. Learning how to organise is a really useful skill for furthering other community needs too. Network, share and take action with similar groups.

## Take Action !



**Refuse** the companies **access** to your land or encourage landowners to do so. Demand the government **ban fracking** and take back the exploration permits. Demand the government repeal or improve the Crown Minerals Act and adopt the Waitangi Tribunal WAI796 Petroleum Report recommendations. **Convince councils** to change soil, water and clean air policies to refuse/revoke exploration, resource takes and discharge consents. Get **waahi tapu** and historic places registered. Take matters to the Environment Court if you have to.



*Otaraua Hapu occupy the access route to Greymouth Petroleum's gas well to protect Tikorangi Pa, 2009, and win.*

Declare your town or district a **drill-free zone**. **Protest** against council and government decisions that continue the pollution and damage. **Call out** the companies so that everyone knows who they are and what they do wrong. **Oppose** seismic surveys, drillsites and dumping of waste eg. organise land occupations, demonstrations, road blocks. Time is money and investors don't like added costs.



(c) ORYAN NEWS  
Oil protestors continue fierce opposition against Brazilian oil exploration company PETROBAS (Picture taken of protestors on a beach near Te Whanau A Apanui on the East Coast of NZ)

## Help us Build a Peoples Movement

Sign up to our newsletter for news, updates & events.  
**Contact us at:**

climatejusticetaranaki@riseup.net  
[www.climatejusticetaranaki.wordpress.com](http://www.climatejusticetaranaki.wordpress.com)  
StopTheDrillinginTaranaki Facebook Group  
[www.nodrilling.org.nz](http://www.nodrilling.org.nz)

# Real Solutions

WHILE WE RESIST fossil fuel extraction, we must also create the new world we want ourselves because government and the capitalist market have proven that they are incapable. Don't fall for false technology fixes such as genetically engineered biofuels or 'clean' coal. **The solutions will ultimately come from people joining together and creating sustainable systems in their own communities**, solutions as diverse as the problems we face. Here are ideas to help you on your way:

## Reduce energy use

Alternatives are not enough if we continue to depend on fossil fuels so ride that bike, turn off those switches, insulate your house, don't buy but DIY and reduce, reuse and refuse.



## Grow Local

We can make huge cuts in greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuel use by localising our food production and distribution and by farming sustainably without using petrochemicals. Small, diversified farms are capable of producing more calories per acre than large-scale monocultures. They are more resilient to climatic changes, and are far less energy and water intensive.

If you don't have access to much land use pots, walls and roofs, convert a lawn or abandoned lot or set up a land trust or community garden. Landless Peasants in South America organise and occupy land then negotiate with the government for its return from rich landlords to the landless poor communities.



## Nature Restoration

Healthy ecosystems are essential to stabilising the climate, maintaining biodiversity, clean drinking water, and many other things we take for granted.



Restoring ecosystems can be as easy as letting a field grow back to its natural state or fencing and pest control to let forest and wetlands return naturally. Planting native trees or ripping up concrete on abandoned lots to create a community orchard are fun too. A neighbourhood did that in Sydney and won solar panels for all their houses.

## Transition Towns

Transition Towns are a global movement of communities that are organising themselves to transition from fossil fuel dependence within their towns and cities. Transition Towns examine the needs of their community such as food, water, transportation and resilience, and implement ways to meet those needs in a sustainable manner.

Find your local group online or create one yourselves using your own methods.

## Localised, Clean, Micro Power

*"Autonomous energy comes from sources where the means of extraction, development, maintenance, and disposal can be managed completely on the scale of a village-sized community. The energy source must be renewable and non-polluting in nature, decentralised in structure, and give total control of its processes to the people who are using it."*

-Rhizome Collective.

Micro-hydro turbines, passive solar systems, wind turbines, fireplace wetback water heaters, methane gas from compostable waste are all simple ways to create your own low-carbon energy at little cost to you or the environment.



[www.ecoinnovation.co.nz](http://www.ecoinnovation.co.nz)

## Solidarity

We must always remember that our struggles are connected. Poor families resisting evictions are fighting the same corporations responsible for funding fossil fuel extraction. For those of us not working on the frontlines there are still many ways to support those who are: organising fundraisers, educational events, and solidarity protests. Your efforts can make a world of difference by providing tangible support as well as breaking the isolation.

**"You can cut all the flowers but you cannot keep spring from coming."** -Pablo Neruda

(Infosheet updated March 2012)