

Community Joint Statement – a Call to Ban Fracking in New Zealand

An alliance of environmental, public health and social justice organisations has united to express grave concerns about hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and demand its ban nationwide.

Fracking is inherently risky. When considering the entire process from drilling to production, transport, waste disposal and well abandonment, the risks are serious, far-reaching and often irreversible. There are ample cases overseas of water and soil contamination, air pollution and health impacts associated with fracking. France, Bulgaria, Germany, Spain and many US states have all banned fracking, most recently New York State in December 2014.

New Zealand's current regulatory, monitoring and reporting regime is grossly inadequate. The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment described New Zealand's monitoring as "*clearly out of step with international 'best practice'*" and most councils as "*unprepared for expansion of the oil and gas industry*" (PCE, June 2014). The practice of spreading drilling wastes, fracked or not, on farmlands for food production is simply unacceptable.

Climate science tells us that most of the fossil fuels already discovered must stay in the ground if we are to have a chance of stabilising climate at a level we can live with. Why, then, would we use damaging technologies like fracking to extract every last drop? Why would we allow deep sea oil drilling to look for more, when we can't burn even what we have?

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 oceans, contaminates our soil and threaten our 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 a total ban on all fracking operations in New Zealand.

Call to Lock the Gate

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

Call for Real Solutions

We urge the NZ government, communities and businesses to transition away from fossil fuels onto low-carbon energy systems, economy and way of life, notably through affordable, public and active transport, sustainable petrochemical-free agriculture, energy-efficient housing and reducing consumption.

Statement Jointly Signed on 1 February 2015 by the following organisations:

350 Aotearoa
Appropriate Technology for Living Association
Catholic Worker Movement
Clean Earth League
Climate Justice Taranaki
Coal Action Murihiku
Coal Action Network Aotearoa
Don't Frack the Bay
Frack Free Kapiti and Beyond
Frack Free Manawatu/Whanganui
Greenpeace
Oil Free Otago
Oil Free Wellington
Ora Taiao: The New Zealand Climate and Health Council
Stop Statoil Auckland
Sustainable Whanganui Trust
Te Kopere Rongoa Kura
Whanganui Rongoa Collective

Also signed by the following organisations after 1 February 2015:

Te Kahui (Rongoa National Body), 3 Feb 2015
Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand, 9 Feb 2015
Friends of the Earth NZ, 6 March 2015
ECO – Environment and Conservation Organisations Aotearoa New Zealand, 30 August 2015

Other organisations, hapu, iwi, communities, councils and businesses 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.info>