

## So what can you do?

- 1. Be informed.** Find out if you live in an area open for oil and gas exploration. If you do, read up on the company involved, its plans and the potential impacts on you. Don't wait till they're at the door. Be prepared.
- 2. Get talking.** Talk to your family, neighbours and friends about the issues, exchange information, ideas and support. Talk/write to the media and the council.
- 3. Be united.** Organise your community, share knowledge and skills, build consensus, declare your road or community a Frack-Free or No-Drill zone.
- 4. Plant trees or crops.** Crown Minerals Act states that mining companies cannot get access agreement through an arbitrator if your land is under crop, or used as or situated within 30 metres of an orchard, vineyard, farm plantation, shelterbelt, indigenous forest, etc. So get planting.
- 5. Object to the proposal.** If you are not the landowner, but have been identified as an 'affected party', make an objection to council and request that the application be declined. If you approve of the proposal, you will not be considered an 'affected party' anymore during the assessment process.
- 6. 'Lock the gate' – Do NOT sign access agreement.** If you are the landowner and a company asks you to sign an access agreement, say NO and seek legal advice. Don't be persuaded by 'special offers only if you sign now' as these can still be negotiated during arbitration. Do not be coerced into signing a non-disclosure agreement which takes away your right to speak out when problems occur.
- 7. Take direct action.** If you as the landowner say NO till the end, you will delay the company by up to 8 months and give you and your community time to organise safe, peaceful direct actions (e.g. blockade, occupation). Every time landowners and affected parties say NO and take action, companies find it more difficult to operate. When there is enough resistance, companies will leave for good.
- 8. Create solutions.** Work with your family to reduce your energy use. Build sustainable communities where you share transport, tools, talents, time, home-grown produce, fun and desire for a positive future for all.

[www.LockTheGate.org.nz](http://www.LockTheGate.org.nz)



[www.ClimateJusticeTaranaki.info](http://www.ClimateJusticeTaranaki.info)

Edition 5 June 2014

## WHAT IF AN OIL AND GAS REP KNOCKS AT YOUR DOOR?



*"They turned up on Christmas Eve and after a long day's work, I just signed the damn access agreement to get rid of them... Now I'm the one moving out."*

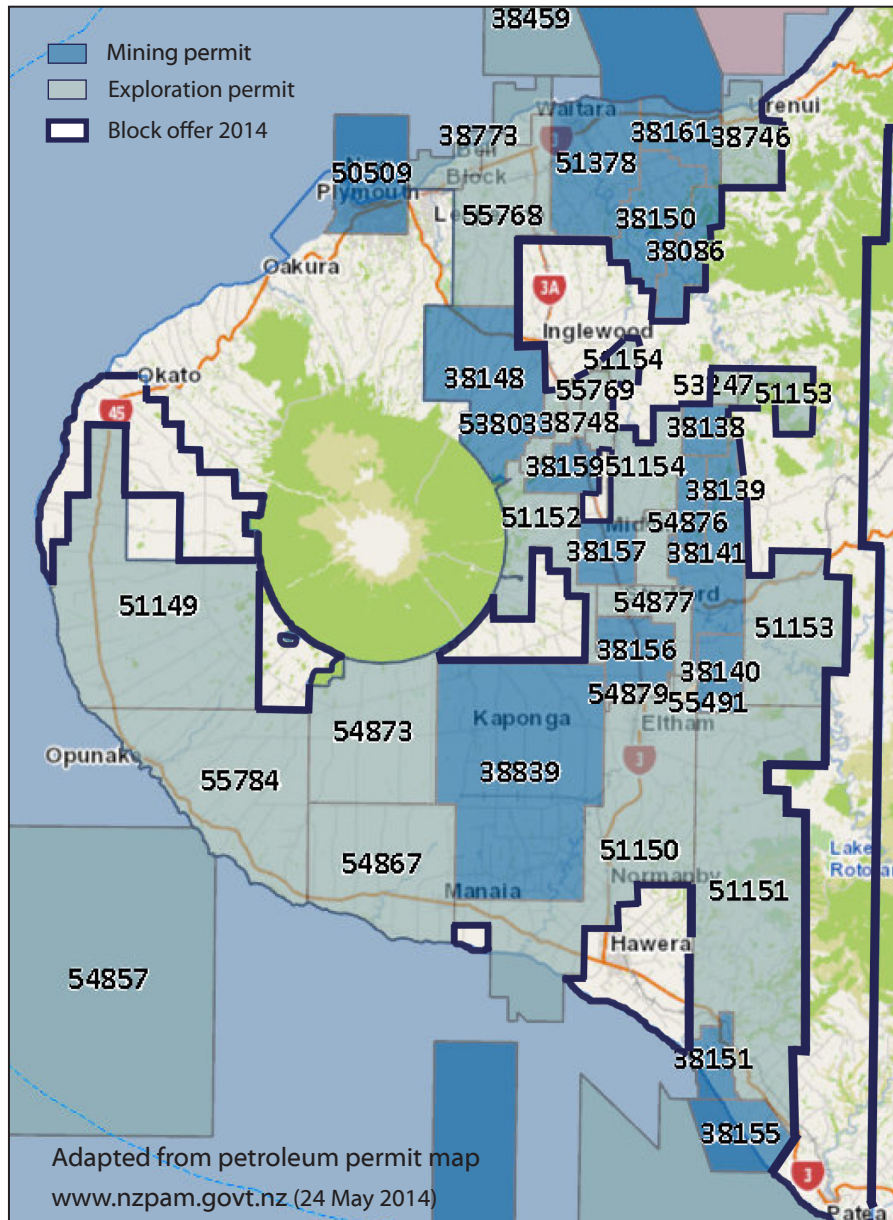
Taranaki farmer, David Morrison, whose family farm is now surrounded by dozens of wells, a gas stripping plant, pipelines and production stations.

### Did you know?

- » Most of Taranaki's land and sea is open to oil and gas exploration and mining. Many of the wells will be fracked.
- » Each well site permitted can have up to eight multi-directional wells drilled under your land. Drilling and fracking chemicals are toxic.
- » Every well site requires new roading, fencing, a drill rig (temporary but 24/7), hazardous chemical storage, flare and waste pits, oil tanks or gas pipes. The potential blowout, gas release or spill zone extends up to 1 km from the well.
- » No insurance company will cover your loss from this industry. Banks are unlikely to grant you a mortgage. You are liable for future problems such as inevitable leaks from abandoned wells once the company walks away.
- » Even with permits from the Crown and the local councils, no mining company can come on your land without your agreement.
- » You have the **right to say NO** or negotiate an access arrangement. All legal costs involved must be borne by the company that seeks access.

## Are they drilling near you?

This map shows the active permits and block offers for petroleum development onshore in Taranaki. Each number represents a permit area for exploration or mining of oil and gas.



## What to expect when drilling starts?

- 1. Excessive noise, light, traffic and fumes** from industry vehicles, heavy machinery and burning flares. Toxic fumes, sleeplessness and stress can all affect health. Increased traffic (often with dangerous chemicals) creates hazards.
- 2. Soil and water contamination.** Resource consents allow companies to discharge drilling wastes onto your land and waterways. Some contaminants persist in the environment, accumulate in food chains and jeopardise food production. Fonterra will not take milk from new landfarms where drilling wastes are spread.
- 3. Impacts on health and safety** of your family and animals. Discharges (to air, land and water) from oil and gas wells contain many harmful substances that affect the respiratory, endocrine, nervous, immune and reproductive systems. Some are carcinogenic. Numerous health cases have been documented overseas, with anecdotal evidence of cancer clusters around Taranaki drill sites. Spills, well blow-outs or malfunctioning of equipment can be catastrophic. Fracking and deepwell injection of waste fluids can cause damaging earthquakes.
- 4. Your water supply adversely affected.** The industry requires lots of water, taken from surface and groundwater. This competes with agricultural, household and environmental needs. Fracking and deepwell injection of drilling waste can contaminate aquifers, rendering them unusable.
- 5. Devaluation of your property.** Few buyers are interested in properties near gas fields and banks may refuse you a mortgage. Any agreement you sign will deny you rights to consultation and bind future landowners.
- 6. Losing control of your property.** Some of your land will be taken out of production and you will have little or no say on what's going on.
- 7. Loss of community and social wellbeing.** Most companies show little respect for families and communities. They thrive on divide and conquer. A rural, productive farming community becomes industrialised and polluted.
- 8. Climate change exacerbated.** As the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment clearly states, the biggest issue of fossil fuel drilling is the global effects on climate change. To avoid a 2°C temperature rise and more extreme weather, we must transition away from fossil fuels. The time to act is now.