

# Say NO to Seismic Survey on Your Land

**If you care about your land, health & wellbeing,  
say NO to oil & gas companies**

Seismic survey or testing is the first step in prospecting for new oil & gas reserves. In Taranaki, onshore seismic surveys generally involve explosives. The 'shot holes' can be anywhere between 10 and 60 metres deep.

Some of the **'charges' (explosives) may fail to detonate (misfires)** and be very difficult or impossible to retrieve, leaving potentially dangerous, unusable areas, a serious legacy issue. Under new district plan rules, such areas would be recorded by the Council. This may weaken land sale opportunities and affect insurance policies. Note resource consents from Taranaki Regional Council are also required.

If economically viable oil & gas reserves are revealed, well drilling, flaring, fracking, production and waste discharge could follow, if landowners and occupiers give further land access to the permit holding companies.

In 2020, Taranaki Energy Watch won a precedent setting court case. The findings confirmed the group's serious concern over the **safety risks of oil & gas operations and the inadequacy of district plan rules** in protecting local residents and the public. The court case decisions have legal consequence over district plan rules and standards.

Don't let yourself be bullied or talked into any agreement with an oil company or contractor, without fully assessing the potential losses and risks involved, or understanding the new rules.

**Excessive noise, light and traffic, safety & health risks, water & soil contamination, land devaluation, insurance issues, disruption of farm operation and community wellbeing all need to be considered.**

## You have the right to deny access

Under the Crown Minerals Act 1991, landowners & occupiers have the right to deny access to their land for petroleum prospecting, exploration and mining, including seismic survey with explosives. Your rights under the law include:

1. Have all the effects of the activity explained to you in full.
2. Request further information and baseline environmental testing before activities begin.
3. Request further conditions, e.g., monitoring, buffer zones, times & type for access (vehicles, who have access, when & from where).
4. Legal representation during negotiations & arbitration. The company attempting to gain access must pay your legal fees.
5. Compensations for injuries, damage or loss of income & amenities.
6. **Refuse access to your land altogether.**

A number of landowners have done this. If you do this, the company may apply for arbitration. Only with your consent can an arbitrator determine the access arrangement. If you refuse, the company must then ask the Governor General to review the matter. To date, we do not know of any such case.

Beware that oil & gas company contractors are often sent to individuals' doors with a consent form they claim, "you have to sign" and a cheque. This tactic ignores your rights to refuse access or full information to negotiate. Know that access deals presented tend to favour companies. Once you have given access, you have no more rights unless you can argue that you were treated unfairly or that you have been misled. However, even if you have signed an access agreement, **you may withdraw** it in writing prior to the survey being conducted on your property.

We also recommend talking with your neighbours and organise together as a united force, to protect each other and the community at large.

## Don't sign, Seek advice

[www.ClimateJusticeTaranaki.info/lock-the-gate](http://www.ClimateJusticeTaranaki.info/lock-the-gate)  
[www.TaranakiEnergyWatchNZ.org/seismic](http://www.TaranakiEnergyWatchNZ.org/seismic)  
Tel: 027 336 2611