

# GRIP Update. March 2010.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 25th March, 2010.

7.00pm Senior Citizens Centre. 30 Hume Street, Gloucester  
Supper will be served.

All positions on the Executive will be vacant  
To nominate for a position please fill out the attached  
form and return to  
GRIP PO Box 440 Gloucester 2422.

The forms must be received by Thursday 18th March.  
No nominations will be received from the floor.

### Positions

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
3 ordinary members

The GRIP committee is very keen to have new members.

If you are considering nominating and would like more  
information on the positions vacant, or GRIP in general  
please contact the President Di Montague 6558 3052

### Agenda for AGM

Confirm minutes of last AGM  
Reports  
Financial Report  
Election of office bearers  
General Business

### Presidents Report

A full report will be read out at the AGM. The report  
will include details of GRIP's activities for the previous  
year and its current position.

Questions and statements from the floor will be  
welcome and encouraged.

### Renewal of Membership now due

Fees \$5 subscription from March 2010 to March 2011  
Renew at the AGM or send subscription to  
GRIP PO Box 440 Gloucester 2422

### Invitation to join Facebook.

GRIP now has its own facebook site. Facebook has been  
extremely successful for other like minded organisations,  
to build on their member base and disseminate  
information to a wider audience.

If you are registered for facebook then it is easy to go to  
the GRIP site and become a member. If you are not a  
facebook member **do not be put off**. All the GRIP  
committee had to learn how to become members so we  
could access the GRIP site. We are very happy to show  
others how to do it.

Details will be given at the AGM.

### Theft of Signs

GRIP signs have been stolen from two properties.  
The most recent incident involved a property on  
Thunderbolts Way, near Barrington. The signs were taken  
within twenty four hours of erection. We won't be put off  
by this. New signs will be prominently displayed higher in  
the trees. This is an offence as the perpetrators had to go  
onto private land to steal the signs.

### Do we want clear air for our kids?

Excerpts from a letter by Steve Robinson printed in 'The  
Herald'. Steve highlights the growing problems in the  
Hunter with environmental pollution.

*"The page-one story "Kids in need" (Herald 1 / 2)  
highlights the huge variation of rates of developmental  
problems found in Hunter five year olds.*

*It ranged from 34.5 per cent in the Upper Hunter to 10.2  
per cent at Gloucester. It is critical that we understand  
the factors behind this so the children of Muswellbrook  
and other parts of our region can have the same chance  
in life as those raised at Gloucester. Last July, Dr  
Frederica Perera of Columbia University, showed high  
exposure during pregnancy to the air pollutant PAH  
(polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) resulted in a lowering  
of that child's IQ by nearly five points when they were  
five years old.*

*PAH is emitted by burning coal, diesel, gas and oil and  
we know is being emitted in high levels from power  
stations such as Liddell where government monitoring is,  
in my opinion, very lax.*

*We also know the Hunter Region has an infant mortality  
rate raised 15 per cent above the NSW average and a  
similarly raised average of cancer rate. In my opinion,  
environmental pollution is the most likely prime factor in  
the developmental damage occurring to Hunter Region  
children and this can be reduced. We should be  
demanding an inquiry into this disaster affecting  
thousands of Hunter children."*

The Gloucester community should be extremely  
concerned with their children's health given the  
evidence in Steve's letter and the inevitable 'Cumulative  
Impacts'.

In Gloucester we have Gloucester Coal's Duralie mine extension application, AGL's Gas Project and the threat of another mine should GRL proceed with mining. What of the effects of 'Cumulative Impacts'? Each mine's impact on the community is evaluated individually not collectively. Add their impacts together and the results have a far greater effect on the health and wellbeing of the residents.

**Duralie mine extension application.  
Is this what will happen if a mine is developed  
around Gloucester?**

Attached is the Johnsons Creek Conservation Committee article to the community outlining the problems they have envisaged with the proposed Duralie extension.

This makes for very interesting reading with regard to the possibility of a mine around Gloucester.

**A letter from Dr Pauline Roberts presenter at  
the GRIP Community Rally in February 2009**

*"Dear All,*

*A win at last for rural communities, clean food and clean water supplies.*

*Thank you for your interest and support of our campaign.*

*Kind regards*

*Pauline Roberts"*

*CCAG (Caroona Coal Action Group)*

*www.ccag.org.au*

5 March 2010

**WATERSHED DECISION TO HOLD MINERS  
MORE ACCOUNTABLE**

**Liverpool Plains farmers win Supreme Court  
case against BHP Billiton**

In a landmark judgment, the NSW Supreme Court today found in favor of two Liverpool Plains farmers who challenged the right of BHP Billiton to enter their farms to explore for coal.

The decision has broad implications for all mining companies seeking access to private land in NSW to conduct exploration and exposes serious deficiencies in the way the current regime deals with environmental protection.

Supreme Court Justice Schmidt ruled that the Chief Mining Warden had erred in a number of ways when, last May, he granted BHP Billiton 'access arrangements' to explore for coal on the properties of the Brown and Alcorn families at Caroona.

Justice Schmidt found the 'access arrangements' had been granted in clear breach of the requirements of NSW Mining Act and, as such, were invalid. She said:

"I order that the decision of the Warden's Court as well as the determination which accompanied it and the interim and final determinations of the arbitrator, be quashed and set aside." (Justice Schmidt – NSW Supreme Court, 5 March 2010)

CCAG spokesman Tim Duddy said: "This is a watershed decision for NSW which will force mining companies to be properly accountable to the environment in a way they've never been required to before."

"It confirms what this community has said from the outset, that is, landholders have been denied fairness and justice in the way 'access agreements' have been imposed on them by the old Mining Warden's Court."

"We welcome this decision and look forward to the NSW Government now reviewing all of the processes governing mining and exploration in this State to ensure the environment and the rights of landholders are no longer treated as less important," Mr Duddy said.

A key component of the Supreme Court decision was the finding that mining companies must inform all landholders - including banks and other mortgagors - that they intend to seek access to specific lands to conduct exploration. Not doing so in relation to the Brown and Alcorn properties represented a breach of the NSW Mining Act.

It is believed to be common practice for mining companies not to notify mortgagors when seeking to enter properties under the Mining Act meaning a large number of other 'access arrangements' currently being used by miners may also now be invalid.

Justice Schmidt also made other important findings related to the conditions which are able to be imposed on mining companies in 'access arrangements' to provide better protection for the environment and rights of landholders.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE IN THE COMMUNITY AND BEYOND, AND IN PARTICULAR THE AUSTRALIAN FARMERS FIGHTING FUND, WHO HAVE SUPPORTED THIS FIGHT FOR OUR CLEAN FOOD AND WATER SUPPLIES.

The CCAG Committee

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**The GRIP committee values your membership. We look forward to seeing you all at the AGM.**

**GRIP**  
**Gloucester Residents in Partnership Inc**

**www.grip.org.au**

GRIP email: support@grip.org.au

PO Box 440, Gloucester 2422

<http://www.facebook.com/?sk=2361831622#!/group.php?gid=315983909569>

**Gloucester Residents in Partnership  
Nomination Form for the election of Office Bearers 2010 - 2011**

Election of Office Bearers

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Nominee (print name) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed by (print name) \_\_\_\_\_ (GRIP member)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by (print name) \_\_\_\_\_ (GRIP member)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Completed forms to be received by Secretary by - Thursday, 18th March, 2010

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**Gloucester Residents in Partnership  
Nomination Form for the election of Office Bearers 2010 - 2011**

Election of Office Bearers

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Nominee (print name) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed by (print name) \_\_\_\_\_ (GRIP member)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by (print name) \_\_\_\_\_ (GRIP member)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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