From: coalcommunities-bounces@lists.nsw.greens.org.au on behalf of Sharyn Munro
To: Coal Communities
Subject: [CoalCommunities] Government gives no commitment to stopping MR coal mine
Date: Friday, 10 September 2010 7:02:51 AM
Attachments: ATT00019.txt

Hi all,
The WA Premier yesterday answered questions in parliament that leave no doubt he is as shortsighted as the rest. (Troy Buswell is their local member and a mate of Barnett's.) Looks like the Margaret River folk are in for a long haul.
The letter below from Brent Watson of their NoCOALition group shows how determined they are, and
I think some messages of support and/or advice would be welcome from Eastern coal warriors.
Sharyn

Begin forwarded message:

From: "No COAL!ition, Margaret River" <info@nocoalitionmargaretriver.com>
Date: 9 September 2010 10:47:19 PM
To: "Farina, Adele" <Adele.Farina@mp.wa.gov.au>
Subject: MR Government gives no commitment to stopping coal mine

Hi Adele - (*this will go out to my data base. And I hope they forward it far and wide*).

Thank you. I get all that (below). Luckily we are cynical enough and not naive so your thoughts come as no surprise as they mirror ours.

So - how ready are we? - pretty ready.

We have Lawyers getting ready for us. Hydrologists, geologists, mining engineers, financiers, media - all sorts of people and we don't intend to lose. We will have to be taken out in a box. I know I will and if this issue does it to me it will anger many people who are tuning in. It will anger them because the lawmakers are happy to squabble over a very dodgy process that should be fixed, while people suffer. It will take me out very publicly - and I will fight this until I physically and mentally drop, and then someone else will pick it up. It will be in the documentary and my funeral will be in it. Michael Muntz will love it!!

Crazy - maybe Adele, but crazy like a fox.

Melodrama - maybe - but try me - wars are fought over land and water. They are now, always have been and they will continue to be. And people far and wide love Margaret River and the longer the Politicians are letting this go on - all of them, no exclusions - ***the more stupid daily they are starting to look***. eg Terry Redman should be all over it to protect agriculture, ***but he is missing in action***. Your agricultural counterpart - should be all over him for it. I can't believe they intend to sit back and risk agricultural water and land for the benefit of foreign shareholders and a bunch of Eastern States coal moles - and Norm Taylor of 52 Loftus Street, Nedlands . No one watching this farce can believe it. It is first and foremost embarrassing. I guess street talk is not

calling it a no-brainer for nothing.

I don't say that lightly - we are farmers. We can think. This is not going away. We are not giving up our land or our water. If Politicians are too stupid to get the seriousness of this they will not be able to say they didn't get warning. This is being documented to its digital eyeballs.

It is above politics so everyone had better get that sorted. All Politicians are heavily suspect and we are accumulating massive world-wide databases and contact lists to expose them for it. We have worked tirelessly to give them a mandate - clearly the town is saying no - and they seem a bit slow on the uptake. I am still struggling as to whether it is an intellect issue or a respect one.

Later, there will be as much civil disobedience as it takes. Our council last night passed a motion to write to the Premier telling him it does not want coal mining in the area. It was not unanimous but the ones against are not pro-mine - they were just worried about some local Government procedures.

We don't reckon Politicians are fighting the right fight. The real fight starts and finishes with the Mining Act. It is now too intrusive and the EPA is not the right mitigant. Things are rampantly and obviously out of control.

I told the Premier today - eyeball to eyeball out the front of the steps - to stop talking about wine or rich people. They are good and they have their place - but this is about water. He said helping us was illegal. I said not it is not - you are a legislator. I also said that he should try to understand something - our Community is unanimously - from the Shire, through NGOs - through citizens - saying NO. An implacable No. Not a conditional NO. Hence - we do not recognise his process because it denies us natural justice. The EPA is a failed instrument in our eyes. I got a bit of a funny look - not sure of what it meant, but he didn't know all that I don't think. Or he just thought I was a crazy fundamentalist.

This is not going away at any level Adele. Our tribe is increasing exponentially - we are linked to the James Price group and lots of groups around Australia. We are making them all highly aware up there of the big coal reserves around Broome.

There is a coal rush on Adele, and the coal wars are only just beginning. Have a look on Google - there is a virtual revolution going on and the twin tyrants of The Mining Act and Coal are in everyone's sights because they are carefree about ruining land and water. .

While the politicians see this as a political game they already redundant and way behind the populace. The anger is building - it has just caused a hung parliament. Cyber networks are building.

If a coal mine goes ahead down here it will only be because it will be forced on a Community - that is going to get noisy and it is going to get ugly before it is over. People are still coming out of their slumber on this. We are not even warmed up yet. Today at parliament was nothing.

We have no option but to succeed - we are fighting for our water. If there are any politicians thinking this is just a local issue - they are wrong. This is way beyond here. Eric Ripper and others might need to get that - if they do not already. If they do not - suggest they talk to me. Perhaps they should do that soon. Or very publicly ignore the invitation - issued now via you.

So here is the deal - unless someone offers us some kind of quick no - and we don't care how but don't keep it a secret for long - this is going to get really bad.

Now I have been honest with you.

What do we do?

Tomorrow - *we have to start finding the triggers in the EPA law and Mining Act for the Quick NO*. Then we have to start to massage those triggers. We are getting tired of them staying so opaque.

I cannot believe the support we are getting from Perth people now. The tribe is getting bigger. Through six degrees of separation - amazing connections are building.

If we find that political subterfuge does us in - our data bases are going to be big enough to affect elections and we are gathering more and more volunteer writers. They won't be visible necessarily - they will just be informing the data bases and contact lists. At the moment we forward politicians in. That is a privilege, not a right. Any who let us down will be scrubbed from that and they will have to work harder for their information. The lazy ones are revealing themselves to enormous numbers of people. Take Liz Constable for example - the missing Minister for Tourism.

Fence sitters are being exposed. Absence from the defense of food chains and water supplies and eco-systems and human Communities is by itself conspicuous.- those missing in action are not hiding as they think they are - they are revealing themselves - they just don't know it.

Our data bases were hanging on every word the Premier said today - and apart from praising us - all he said in the end right to my face was that if he helped us it is illegal. I am not a politician - just a bloke. So therefore with no ulterior motives or games or bull..... ***I just heard the leader of our State say he is prepared to be frightened off by a few miners and put our water and food chains at risk.*** That is not coy or careful - that is negligence and risking food security will elevate into a crime. Maybe not now - but it is coming, and none of us has any excuse - we all know better.

Times have changed Adele - we have environmental exhaustion all around us. Leaders who are not leaders are just speed humps and the populace will run them over. Just watch. Maybe not just right now, maybe not on this issue - but watch this space.

LDO are meant to be coming to town again - we are trying to figure how to give them the official cold shoulder. They are not even relevant in this political

process and the Government should be telling them to go home until they get a grip on their unruly constituents in the SouthWest Corner. The Boys and Girls at Department of State Development should be saying - not right now Boys - this is not a good time right now. That's Phil and Lara. I hope they not giving our good friends at LDO the idea that this State welcomes them - because Phil and Lara don't have our permission as taxpayers to say that to them just now. Neither does the Premier.

Kind regards

Brent

From: Farina, Adele
Sent: Thursday, September 09, 2010 7:21 PM
To: No COAL!ition, Margaret River
Cc: Rados, Jordyn
Subject: RE: MR Government gives no commitment to stopping coal mine

Brent,

I don't like to let you down and I understand how what I'm about to say can be interpreted as me playing politics – but I am genuinely being sincerely honest with you.

The Premier and Troy Buswell have intentionally led you to believe that they will stop the mine. Through my questions in Parliament we know, that the government has no intention to take positive action to stop the mine. Both the Premier and Troy have been leading the community on, giving them a false sense of comfort.

The government in my view has done nothing to explore the option of not renewing the mining leases up for renewal. The government isn't interested in exploring this option as they are pro-mining.

The government has the capacity to stop the mine. It is likely to cost the government money in compensation, but the cost to Margaret River is greater. The government is simply not willing to take this cause of action.

Brent, in all honesty, even at the highest level of environmental assessment, from past experience I fear and expect that the EPA will approve the coalmine. The Minister for Environment will argue that she has imposed the toughest conditions ever and that the conditions will protect Margaret River – of course we have heard this all before – we hear it from the Minister with every controversial approval she grants – and of course it is not true. There is a list of projects with the toughest conditions which have resulted in detrimental environmental impacts.

I don't mean to be so pessimistic but I think it is important that you understand we have a big fight ahead and we will not be getting any help from the government. We need money to engage expert consultants to challenge the

mining companies experts and we need the help of the Conservation Council of WA who have experience in these fights.

I am in for the long haul and willing to work with the Conservation Council of WA and the Greens, who are genuinely supporting the people of Margaret River.

What is the Coal!ition's next step and how can I help. Happy to provide advice on the best course of action from here on end. Perhaps all the groups – the Coal!ition, the Greens, Conservation Council of WA and I should get together to develop a strategy?

Regards,
Adele.

From: No COAL!ition, Margaret River [mailto:info@nocoalitionmargaretriver.com]
Sent: Thursday, 9 September 2010 6:36 PM
To: Farina, Adele
Subject: Re: MR Government gives no commitment to stopping coal mine

I can't tell if we are being done over, or if the Premier really does have no choice and actually thinks we have a better chance in the EPA.

From: Farina, Adele
Sent: Thursday, September 09, 2010 6:25 PM
To: No COAL!ition, Margaret River
Subject: RE: MR Government gives no commitment to stopping coal mine

Hi Brent,

Are you there?

What is your reaction to the Premier's response today in Parliament?

Regards,
Adele.

From: No COAL!ition, Margaret River [mailto:info@nocoalitionmargaretriver.com]
Sent: Thursday, 9 September 2010 6:18 PM
To: Horsesandhorsemen
Subject: Fw: MR Government gives no commitment to stopping coal mine

Media Statement from South West MLC Adele Farina.

Parliamentary Questions and answer also attached.

Jordyn Rados Research Officer
Hon. Adele Farina MLC
Member for South West Region