COAL SEAM GAS & PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE

Wednesday, 15th August, 2018, 2pm-8.30pm
The Crossing Theatre, 117 Tibbereena St, Narrabri

Why do we need a Coal Seam Gas and Public Health Conference?

Coal Seam Gas licences cover 12% of the land mass of NSW. Based on the experiences both in Queensland and overseas, public health impacts over such a large geographical area could be significant. This timely conference will address issues of concern to host communities and inform professionals of the impacts experienced in the CSG gas-rush of Queensland's Darling Downs and south-west Sydney.

Who should attend?

✚ Doctors
✚ Nurses and Nurse Managers
✚ Midwives and Child Health Specialists
✚ Social Workers and Allied Health Professionals
✚ Community Health Advocates
✚ Pharmacists
✚ Shire Council personnel from areas where CSG is under consideration
✚ NSW Health
✚ Community members

Evening forum: Is the Precautionary Principle being applied in health impact assessments?

Cost: Corporate $50 or $85 (including dinner) at the Narrabri Bowling Club.
Entry by donation for community members and low income
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CONFERENCE PROGRAM:
Registration from 1pm

2pm Afternoon session commences
“How unconventional gas erodes the environmental determinants of health”
Dr Helen Redmond, Rehabilitation Physician and Member of Doctors for the Environment Australia (NSW)

“Are emissions from the unconventional gas industry associated with hospitalisations in the Darling Downs, Queensland?”
Dr Geralyn McCarron, Queensland General Practitioner

“Impacts of Unconventional Gas for Host Families”
Mrs Shay Dougall, Work, Health, Safety and Environment Specialist, and former Chinchilla gas fields resident

4pm Afternoon tea

4.20pm Afternoon session continues
“Mental Health concerns for CSG host communities”
Dr Methuen Morgan, Psychologist, University of New England

“Applying Health Impact Assessment in Coal Seam Gas developments”
Prof Melissa Haswell, Faculty of Health, Queensland University of Technology

6pm-7pm Dinner break
7pm-8.30pm Panel Discussion & Open Forum

For more information about the event, accommodation options (including billeting) please phone the CSG & Public Health Conference information line: 0416 077 753
Website: nwprotectionadvocacy.com
Dr Geralyn McCarron  
Originally from Ireland, Dr Geralyn McCarron is a GP practicing in suburban Brisbane for 30 years. Following her first trip to Western Queensland, she has remained involved with rural communities impacted by unconventional gas. Since 2012, she has been involved with a Darling Downs community that has found itself hosting Queensland’s multibillion dollar gasfield development, hence her research focusing on the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service, particularly in Chinchilla in the heart of the gasfields. She has written two peer reviewed publications, one report and has made submissions to several State and Territory Inquiries.

Mrs Shay Dougall  
A Health and Safety professional of 20 years (predominantly in waste to energy, wind energy & unconventional gas), currently studying Master(OHSE), Shay is a wife and mother of two living in Queensland’s Western Downs and gasfields. Shay’s family was impacted by the Linc Energy Underground Coal Gasification Contamination and for the past 6 years she had personal experience in dealing with the unconventional gas companies and their impacts on families. She has also advocated for approximately 30 other individual families. Her advocacy experience in the unconventional gas arena includes issues pre and post Conduct and Compensation Agreements and legislative Compliance issues, undertaking testing, writing submissions. Most recently Shay convened the Australian contribution to the Permanent Peoples’ Tribunal Session on Human Rights, Fracking and Climate Change.

Dr Methuen Morgan  
Methuen currently lectures in the School of Psychology in the fields of Environmental Psychology and Behaviour Change. He has Bachelor degrees in Financial Administration and Arts and a PhD in Psychology. The title of his PhD thesis was ‘Striking the balance: Farmers’ responses to coal seam gas and climate change’. Methuen’s PhD thesis “Australian Farmer Responses to Coal Seam Gas Extraction Operations” has had chapters published in Journals such as the Journal of Environmental Psychology.

Methuen’s presentation at the Conference is based on one of his peer-reviewed published papers from his thesis titled “Fracked: Coal seam gas extraction and farmers’ mental health”. Methuen’s family run a large-scale farm and feedlot operation in the Condamine district in Queensland. Dealing with the CSG industry and the consequences is a familiar occurrence. Methuen is also the co-founding Executive Director of Meralli Solar – a solar construction company specialising in providing commercial scale solar projects in rural and regional Australia.

Prof Melissa Haswell  
Professor and Discipline Lead of Health, Safety and Environment in the School of Public Health and Social Work at Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Course Coordinator of the Graduate Diploma of Occupational Health and Safety, and the Master of Health, Safety and Environment, Professor Haswell teaches about 100 undergraduates and 200 post graduate students a year overall and serves on PhD confirmation panels for the Faculty of Science, particularly in the field of environmental sciences and ecology.

She is experienced in professional training and presenting on unconventional gas with doctors and addressed the Australian Medical Association in Perth in 2017 on the subject of potential health and well-being risks associated with unconventional gas mining.

She was a researcher at the highly prestigious Queensland Institute for Medical Research for 8 years, and University of Queensland for 14 years before UNSW. Professor Haswell’s publications are across a range of fields including epidemiology, infectious diseases, chronic diseases, cancer epidemiology, hepatology, carcinogenesis, toxicology, radiology, parasitology, immunology, community-based infection control programs, health promotion, social science, HIV/AIDS, empowerment, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, diabetes, mental health, social and emotional wellbeing, youth health.

Dr Helen Redmond  
Dr Redmond is a rehabilitation physician and member of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. She is a conjoint lecturer in the School of Public Health and Community Medicine at the University of NSW, teaching Environmental Health to undergraduate medical students. She has a wide range of skills including stroke rehabilitation, pain management, multi-trauma, orthopaedic and aged care rehabilitation.

As well as being a full time clinician in Sydney, Helen has been a volunteer for Doctors for the Environment Australia (DEA) for the last 8 years and is a member of the NSW DEA committee. Since 2011, her public health advocacy work has included the health impacts of unconventional gas. She has contributed to many DEA submissions to government on unconventional gas and has presented to NSW and Federal Senate inquiries into the industry on behalf of DEA and presented the health impacts of unconventional gas at the Population Health Congress 2012, Royal Society of Victoria 2013, and IDEA (annual conference DEA) in 2014.
1. **Do I have to be a health professional to attend?**

You do not have to be employed as a health professional to attend this Conference. Of course, if you do not have current experience and knowledge in a health profession some of the clinical and specialist content may be outside your knowledge base. However, the purpose of the Conference is to raise awareness across a broad range of the community concerned about public health. We believe, therefore, that many community members will benefit by hearing from experts. Attendance at this Conference will provide attendees with information about the terminology, and issues, related to coal seam gas and public health that they can then build upon.

At this Conference you will also hear real-life experiences from individuals who have been through CSG experiences in Chinchilla (QLD) and Camden (NSW).

Shire Councils from the 14 regional shires affected by CSG exploration licences are particularly encouraged to send representatives. They include:

- Coonamble
- Dubbo
- Gilgandra
- Gunnedah
- Guyra
- Liverpool Plains
- Mid-Western Regional
- Moree Plains
- Narrabri
- Narrainine
- Upper Hunter
- Walgett
- Warrene
- Warrumbungle

2. **What is the cost of attending the CSG and Public Health Conference?**

For $85 full event registration you will attend all of the expert speaker presentations commencing at 2PM (registration commencing at 1PM), including tea/coffee on arrival, afternoon tea, and dinner. The full registration also includes attendance at an evening Open Forum and Panel Discussion which will enable more in-depth Q & A with the experts.

The Afternoon Sessions-only charge is $50, which includes tea/coffee on arrival and afternoon tea. This concludes at 6PM.

All attendees will receive access to a reading list of key background materials.

3. **Is there a concession price for low income registrants?**

We are aware that the cost of transport to Narrabri, plus accommodation and the lost income of a day off work (for those not representing their employer), will not be easily affordable to all health professionals who wish to attend. However, the registration price reflects the cost of running the event and this is a not for profit initiative. Therefore we can not offer a concession. Nevertheless, if you would like to attend and cost is prohibitive please call our event information line on 0416 077 753 and let us know, if there are any seats available we will be offering them for the cost of the dinner at The Crossing Theatre. We will keep in touch with you if this is looking likely.

4. **Is there a concession price for groups?**

If an organisation registers more than one person to attend, as with Q.2 above, we can put you on a list for reduced entry if the conference is not fully subscribed.

5. **What kind of accommodation is available in Narrabri?**

There are several accommodation options in Narrabri to suit people’s budget, desire for privacy and interest in meeting members of the local community. There are two motels which we recommend. If you are planning to book with them please let them know that you are attending the CSG and Public Health Conference.

- **Club Motor Inn** 115-117 Barwan St, Narrabri, 02 6792 3191, $130 single room rate or $145 double room rate.
- **Southern Cross Motel** 24 Maitland St, Narrabri, 02 6792 3838, $110 Double (1 x Q bed only) or $ 125 Twin (1 x Q and 1 x single bed).

Note that the Club Motor Inn is very close to The Crossing Theatre, Woolworths, petrol station and shops. Billeting is also an option. Please call our Event Information line if you would like to discuss the possibility of staying with a local family.

6. **What is the recommended transport to Narrabri?**

Apart from private car, the other options are train or plane to Narrabri.

A Sydney-Narrabri service is offered by Fly Corporate 1300 851 269 or the other alternative is to fly from Sydney to Moree and hire a car to drive to Narrabri. QANTAS and Virgin both fly to Moree.

7. **Will I receive the conference papers after the event?**

Yes. We will also send you a recommended reading list of important sources relevant to the conference topics.

8. **What other scenic destinations or points of interest are recommended for visitors to the area?**

If you have a car, a drive one hour south to the Pilliga Forest eco-retreat, the Pilliga Pottery, is highly recommended. The Pottery is a well-known creative hub and has a variety of accommodation allowing you to enjoy bushwalks, or just relax. The café and restaurant offers organic food, some of it produced on the very property itself. On the way, you might stop to visit the Pilliga “Sculptures in the Scrub” and walking track.

To the east of Narrabri capping the Nandewar Ranges is Mt Kaputar. Nearby is the awesome Sawn Rocks.