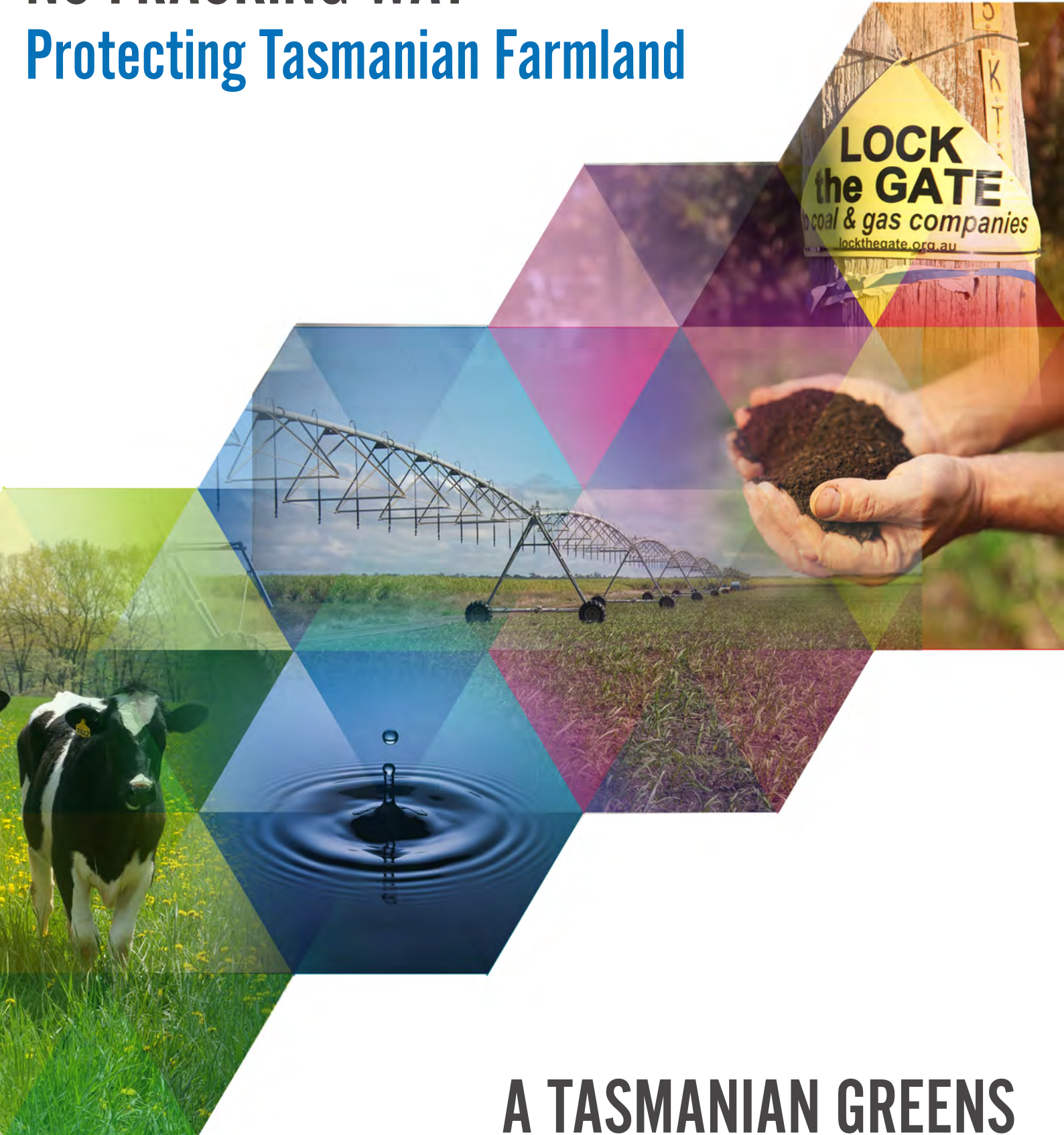


# NO FRACKING WAY

## Protecting Tasmanian Farmland



## A TASMANIAN GREENS POLICY INITIATIVE

Launched by **Tim Morris MP**  
March 2014



**TASMANIA.  
CREATE OUR  
OWN FUTURE**



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## > YOUR TEAM IN STATE PARLIAMENT



## > WANT MORE INFO?

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# No Fracking Way Protecting Tassie Farms

*The Tasmanian Greens will move to implement a permanent ban on fracking in the state.*

There are growing concerns over the environmental, social, economic and legal implications of fracking on our farms.

This has been heightened by revelations in NSW of the first confirmed incident of groundwater contamination due to a fracking operation.

The Greens will stand up for our farmers, landowners, local businesses and ensure their land and livelihoods are protected from fracking.

## > THE ISSUE

- “Fracking” in Tasmania has become the understood term for the mechanical process to release the natural gas from coal seam gas, unconventional shale oil and gas mining projects.
- This form of mining operation uses the process of hydraulic fracture stimulation to release the natural gas and enable recovery.
- In Tasmania “fracking” has been associated with unconventional shale oil and gas extraction projects.
- Experience elsewhere in Australia has shown that fracking can lead to contamination of freshwater aquifers. A report by the Committee for Economic Development of Australia states:

*“In addition to concerns over contamination of aquifers from the chemicals added to fracking fluid, issues have also been raised about contamination of water supplies from fugitive gas after fracking, and seismic activity and tremors associated with the drilling and fracking process”.*

- Whilst the exploration license sought here is not for coal seam gas, it is for what is known as shale oil and gas and there are some similarities in the processes used.
- Many Tasmanian landowners and farmers have realized their agricultural properties could be threatened by companies seeking exploration or mining on their land utilizing the fracking process.
- With the granting of an exploration licence to PetraGas last year means that nearly half of Tasmania will be under exploration for gas and oil, and it is highly likely the controversial practice of fracking will be used should sufficient resource be identified.
- There has been lack of involvement with landowners over the potential impacts this could have for their properties including the release of harmful emissions, water contamination and landowners rights.
- There are no guarantees that fracking operations will lead to any long-term jobs and it could in fact upset the existing local economies that some families and businesses have invested a lot of time and money into establishing.

- In the first confirmation of aquifer contamination associated with CSG activity in Australia it has been revealed that the NSW Environmental Protection Authority found the coal seam gas project of gas company Santos had seriously contaminated nearby ground water with toxic elements such as uranium, arsenic, lead, and boron. Uranium has been detected in the aquifer at 335 micrograms per litre, which is 20 times safe drinking water levels. [1]
- The gas industry often states there are no ‘proven’ cases of gas extraction leading to aquifer contamination. This recent situation in NSW indicates that whether it is for CSG or other forms of fracking – the threat to water systems is real.
- Tasmania has an obligation to do its part to help reduce global carbon pollution, and releasing ever more areas for hydrocarbon exploration is not the direction we should be heading in.
- The fossil fuel industry’s days are numbered, and we need to be getting ahead of the curve by putting the focus on developing pathways to Tasmania becoming 100% renewable.

## > OUR PLAN

**The Greens will act to give our landowners and primary producers statewide clear certainty that their properties will not be impacted upon by mineral exploration or extraction utilizing fracking.**

- The Greens will move to amend the state *Mineral Resources Development Act 1995* to prohibit the use of the hydraulic fracture stimulation process in mining operations in Tasmania, for the purpose of releasing natural gas from shale.

[1] Santos coal seam gas project contaminates aquifer, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 8 March 2014.