

To the Environment and Planning Committee,

I am writing to you on behalf of Frack Free Moriac. We are a community group that only came together after concerns of a Petroleum Licence (PEP163) that covered our town.

I use the word covered, as it has been a dark shadow over own towns and the people that live there.

The towns of Moriac, Mt Moriac, Paraparap, Freshwater Creek, Gherang, Modewarre, Buckley, Barrabool and Gnarwarre are just some towns that Frack Free support.

On Sunday 14th September 2014, the community came together to celebrate. It celebrated what is great about our towns; quiet, tranquil, green, friendly, and beautiful. And we celebrated our declaration, that Moriac, Mt Moriac, Paraparap and Freshwater Creek would be Gasfield free.

Damien, a local plumber stated on the day that 'We love where we live. Moriac, Mt Moriac, Paraparap and Freshwater Creek are beautiful country towns, where agriculture is a way of life and a primary source of employment and income for many residents. We enjoy the peace and quiet. We enjoy living in some of the most pristine locations in the Surf Coast. We thrive on the strong community spirit that is present in our communities and our willingness to unite as one when needed. We have done it before and we will do it again! Anything that threatens to disrupt our way of life will not be overlooked, and today is about making a public declaration on behalf of our communities that we will stand together and do whatever it takes to protect our way of life, and that of the future generations.'

So as you can see, there is no social licence for this industry.

After surveying our towns, we have democratically declared ourselves Gasfield Free.

Moriac - 97% wish to declare their town gas field free.

Mt Moriac – 96% wish to declare their town gas field free

Paraparap – 92% wish to declare their town gasfield free

Freshwater creek – 93% wish to declare their town gasfield free

As I am writing this on behalf of our group, I would like to make it clear that although you may not receive submissions from each and every one of our residents, it is clear that the industry is not welcome in our area.

I am very frustrated with the notion that I need to prove the industry is not safe. I am not going to go into all the reasons why our towns are locking their gates. Instead I'll quote from our declaration:

We stand together as a community against gasfield industrialisation.

We stand together as a community against risks to our water.

We stand together as a community against risks to our health.

We stand together as a community, one strong community who has locked the gate.

Thank you

Frack Free Moriac