

Gunnedah Basin Health Impact Assessment

14.3.2013

To whom this may concern:

The residents of the Gunnedah Basin that includes the towns of Quirindi, Gunnedah, Boggabri, Narrabri, Wee Waa and Moree are pushing to develop a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) for the region prior to the commencement of large coal and gas developments.

To this end a Scoping Committee of 20 concerned citizens prepared a Terms of Reference (ToR) for the HIA in conjunction with the University of NSW Centre for Health Equity Training, Research and Evaluation (CHETRE).

The ToR has been developed into a proposal and this proposal is the basis for our submission.

The HIA is focused on Physical, Mental, Social and Environmental Health. In order to satisfy establish existing environmental health the community is pushing for air quality baseline and water quality baseline measures before large scale development.

It is our communities view that the air quality baseline are a vital part of the environmental health on which the other aspects of health rely.

Our proposal is being progressed in government circles now and we are working to ensure that work on the HIA is complete within 18 month of the HIA's funding commitments. It is important that this timeline is met before possible large scale mining and gas developments occur.

Thank you for the opportunity to put forward a community solution to a pressing problem in our region.

Kind Regards

**Phil Laird
Chairman**