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SAVE OUR RICH LAND MINISTER O'BRIEN!

Last week Sharyn Munro, author of 'Rich Land Wasteland' attended Bacchus Marsh and spoke to community members about her finds from the research in to coal mining communities in Australia.

Victorian MP Don Nardella was present at the talk and the Moorabool Environment Group presented Mr Nardella with a copy of 'Rich Land Wasteland' who undertook to present a copy of this book to Minister O'Brien – Minister for Energy and Resources.

Minister Michael O'Brien has the authority under the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act to grant Mantle Mining a Mining Licence for brown coal in Bacchus Marsh, if they apply for one following the results of their recent exploration drilling in the area.

Extract from Hansard

Mr NARDELLA (Melton) -- Last week I heard author Sharyn Munro talk about her book on the dangers of coal mining and the burning and transportation of coal, especially around Bacchus Marsh. The Moorabool Environment Group has given me a copy of the book, which I presented to the Minister for Energy and Resources. I hope he reads it, especially in relation to coal and the mining of coal around Bacchus Marsh.

http://tex.parliament.vic.gov.au/bin/texhtmlt?form=jVicHansard.dumpall&db=daily&dodraft=1&speech=14581&activity=Members+Statements&title=Bacchus+Marsh:+coal+mining&date1=19&date2=June&date3=2012&query=true%0a%09and+%28+data+contains+'NARDELLA'+%29%0a%09and+%28+members+contains+'NARDELLA'+%29%0a%09and+%28+hdate.hdate_3+=+2012+%29%0a%09and+%28+hdate.hdate_2+contains+'June'+%29%0a%09and+%28+hdate.hdate_1+=+19+%29%0a

The book 'Rich Land Wasteland' documents the stories of ordinary Australians fighting a huge battle to keep themselves and their communities' safe in the face of poor legislation, poor monitoring and corporate companies who will do whatever they need to for the sake of profit.

Public health impacts from coal mining including those created by dust containing toxic substances, water pollution, noise and community destruction. Environments are being destroyed with no prospects of rehabilitation. Towns are just disappearing, houses moved out by mining companies as the mines expand.

A [Parliamentary Inquiry](#) recently recommended some changes to Victoria's mining regime, including reforms to give communities more information about exploration and mining that affects them. It followed an [EDO report](#) which called for big changes to protect the environment and communities.

The Government has yet to respond to either report, or to set out their position on how the coal and coal seam gas mining regime will be reformed. They are expected to do so in the next 5 months will this be too late for Bacchus Marsh.

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