

National Scale of Coal and Unconventional Gas Threat

- New mapping reveals that 37.3% of the Australian continent is currently covered by coal and petroleum tenements and applications.
- That equates to an area of 285 million hectares, which is almost 13 times the size of Great Britain.
- The attached map shows the distribution of all coal and gas titles and applications across Australia in April 2016.

Water Resources at Risk

Nationally significant water resources which are potentially threatened by coal and gas mining activities include:

1. The Yarragadee aquifer of south-west WA, which is recognised as an important water source for Perth and is threatened by unconventional gas fracking
2. The drinking water catchment for Sydney, which currently has 9 longwall coal mines, with several new mines and expansions proposed
3. The magnificent desert rivers of Lake Eyre Basin in Qld's Channel Country which is being targeted for exploratory shale gas fracking
4. The Mereenie Sandstone aquifer which provides the water supply for Alice Springs threatened by unconventional gas mining
5. The Great Artesian Basin across Qld, NSW and South Australia which is relied on by farmers across vast inland areas and which is at risk from coal and unconventional gas.
6. The recharge waters of the international tourist icon Mataranka Hot Springs in the NT threatened by shale gas fracking

Action Needed

- Mining has been one of the most controversial issues that has shifted votes in the lead-up to state elections in NSW and Qld over the last 2 years.
- Across Australia, 280 communities covering more than 5 million hectares of land have surveyed all residents and declared themselves 'mining free'.
- State governments have failed to properly protect water supplies, food-producing lands or communities across Australia.

- The Federal Government has constitutional powers to make laws relating to coal and gas mining through its external affairs, corporations and trade powers.
- We are calling for measures to protect nationally significant water resources, support the 'dining boom' and ensure the health of people and communities.

We would like you to publicly state your support for the attached #Water4Life index in the lead-up to the Federal election.