



# Lock the Nambucca Valley

## Protect our valley from **antimony mining**

lockthenambuccavalley.com.au

*A local community group opposing antimony mining in the Nambucca valley*

## Community Update – Autumn 2014

### Exploration not likely to start until 2015 says Precious Metals Resources (PMR) but why believe them? Already they have:

- Ignored their legislated requirement to conduct effective community consultation by not providing any response whatsoever to two letters from LNV that express the concerns of the Nambucca Valley community regarding the possible resumption of antimony mining in the Valley.
- Breached their licence conditions regarding community and local government consultation in the Macleay Valley.
- In response to assertions from the EDO regarding their lack of community consultation in the Macleay Valley, appear to have falsely back dated a community liaison document on their website.

PMR simply cannot be trusted. They say there will be no exploration until 2015, but their licence allows them to start at any time. As world commodity prices fluctuate, so does the priority assigned to minerals exploration.

We must not be complacent. We need to be ready to respond effectively when PMR decides to commence exploration and to keep them off our land.

### LNV... coming to a hall near you

LNV will visit rural communities within the exploration area to hold its regular meeting followed by a local community information session and workshop. Meetings will provide insight into LNV's operation for those wishing to attend, while the workshop will focus on providing support and guidance for local communities aiming to keep antimony mining out of the valley. LNV stickers, t shirts and Lock the Gate signs will be on sale & info available. We look forward to meeting locals and strengthening our network of locals protecting properties, water and soil from mining damage.

Taylors Arm Hall – June	Burrapine Hall - July
Talarm Hall - August	South Arm Hall - October
Argents Hill Hall – September	Valla Hall – November

Watch website for details

### Baseline Water Testing Project Planned

This important LNV project will identify key sites on Taylors Arm, North Arm and South Arm creeks below likely exploration sites, for water sampling to establish baseline levels of arsenic, antimony and other metals. The project will augment the water testing regime planned by Nambucca Shire Council which will test for arsenic and antimony just upstream of the town water supply borefield. The rationale of the planned LNV project is to have a snapshot of existing levels of contamination (if any) before exploration or mining takes place upstream, in an effort to hold the company, PMR, to account for any increase in pollution following any mining activity. Scientifically valid water testing is an expensive exercise. LNV is now fundraising to cover costs and donations are most welcome.

### AGM

LNV's AGM was held at the Tewinga Community Centre on 24<sup>th</sup> May, with a good turn out of dedicated campaigners. The 2013/14 committee was sincerely thanked for its enormous effort over the year. The 2014/15 executive committee is President - Rudy Van Drie, V President - Lyn Orrego, Secretary - Doug Blackwell, Treasurer-Todd Vercoe and committee members - Linda Schofield, Georgette Allen, Leanne Bowron and Dee Hunter. The new committee will maintain its high level of vigilance and readiness to respond in the event of commencement of mining activities. It will also continue to raise local awareness and support local communities to protect their soil and water.

### Bad practice continues in Macleay

Late last year members of Save Our Macleay River (SOMR), LNVs 'sister group' to the south, visited the Halls Peak area in the upper Macleay in response to rumours that PMR had commenced exploration activities. But what they found was more than they had bargained for..."we saw newly built dams with very brightly coloured water and we noticed that the dams had recently been 'cleaned' by dredging the toxic sediment and dumping it into a gully where it washes into the river" said SOMR chairman Arthur Bain. The EPA is investigating and Derelict Mines Office (DMO) were to undertake remediation work to fix up the mess. SOMR revisited the site in March to assess the works – report can be viewed at <http://saveourmacleayriver.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Gibsons-March-2014.pdf>

## PMR caught out

In early October 2013, Save Our Macleay River group (SOMR) established that PMR had commenced exploration activities in the Macleay Valley under its exploration licences EL 4474, EL 5339 and EL 7679, located at Halls Peak, in breach of Licence Condition 34. The licence conditions for these ELs are the same as those for EL 8016 in the Nambucca Valley. Condition 34 states that 'Prior to the commencement of any prospecting operations, the exploration licence holder must establish a Community and Landholder Liaison Program that can effectively address inquiries from landholders and community members within the area of the exploration licence' and 'contact all Local Councils within the area covered by the exploration licence'. Armidale Dumaresq Council confirmed that it had not been contacted by PMR, despite PMR having undertaken numerous on ground exploration activities over many months in the Hillgrove area. The Environmental Defenders Office on behalf of SOMR has written to the Director General of the Department of Trade and Investment regarding the breach.

## LNV at Pro Ag 2013

LNV's information stall at the two day Macksville Pro Ag last October generated significant interest and support from the many visitors. Members were kept busy answering questions and providing information on the threat to agricultural land and water posed by proposed antimony mining in the Nambucca Valley and other sites in our region. People were keen to sign petitions and buy Lock the Gate triangles. Planning will commence shortly for our 2014 Pro AG stall. Helpers welcome.



LNV stall volunteers at Pro Ag 2013



LNV member Glen Schaefer talks with Pro Ag stall holder

## Some simple steps you can take to help in the fight against antimony mining in the Nambucca Valley and to protect your property

- Stay informed visit: [www.lockthenambuccavalley.com.au](http://www.lockthenambuccavalley.com.au) and [www.lockthemidnorthcoast.com.au](http://www.lockthemidnorthcoast.com.au)
- Join Lock the Nambucca Valley or your local Lock the Gate group.
- Get involved - sign our petitions – make a donation.
- Display a Lock the Gate sign at your front gate.
- Talk to your family and neighbours.
- Add your name to the volunteer list to help at LNV information stalls and events
- Form a local group
- Advise LNV if you are contacted by PMR seeking access to your property or you know of anyone else who has been.
- Stay vigilant.

## Merchandise for sale

Lock the Gate triangle signs are available for \$5 from:

**Bowraville** - Technology Centre &, Norco.  
**Macksville** – Harriet's Gourmet Foods, Norco  
**Nambucca Heads** – Nambucca Hardware  
**Valla Beach**- Valla Beach Café  
**Bellingen** – Awl leather Old Butter Factory

Also available: LNV bumper stickers \$3 or 2 for \$5, wrist bands \$4 or 3 for \$10 and the popular black cotton locally made LNV t-shirts \$25. To order email Todd [twvercoe@gmail.com](mailto:twvercoe@gmail.com)



## Request to Minister NOT to renew PMRs licence

LNV has written to the responsible Minister requesting that he NOT renew PMR's Exploration Licence 8016 when it expires in November 2014 and setting out the many reasons for this request including the company's failure to respond to community concerns and the example in the Macleay valley of contamination with arsenic and antimony downstream of the Hillgrove antimony mining area.

## Membership renewals due

Memberships renewals are now due and will run through to June 30 2015 so please send \$10 to our Treasurer by either going online to our website or sending a cheque or money order to Lock the Nambucca Valley at PO Box 31 Macksville 2447 NSW.

Like us on Facebook



Lock the Nambucca Valley

**President: Rudy Van Drie 6564 2244**  
**Secretary: Doug Blackwell 6568 4426**

Lock the Nambucca Valley (LNV) meets regularly check website for date and venue details  
[www.lockthenambuccavalley.com.au](http://www.lockthenambuccavalley.com.au)

LNV is a member of the Lock the Gate Alliance