Bridging the divide - food justice in rural and urban Queensland

Free 1 Day Symposium — Brisbane, Friday 31 October 2014, 9am to 5pm
Griffith University EcoCentre, Building N68, Griffith University, Nathan Campus

Join us for an important symposium which explores current issues affecting our food, land and water

Farmers and food production in Queensland face growing threats. Coal mining and coal seam gas threaten prime agricultural land in South East Queensland and are increasingly responsible for polluting soil, air, water and land. Communities are concerned about the potential impacts of genetically modified organisms (GMO) on crops and the growing corporatization of food production and displacement of family farms. How can we ensure Queensland has a healthy, sustainable food system? And how can rural and urban communities work together more effectively to ensure food justice for consumers and producers? Come along to this important symposium - join the conversation and explore what we can do to support each other and ensure a just and healthy food future.

For more information please visit our website: http://www.earthlaws.org.au/environmental-justice-network-australia/food-justice

For maps to help you find the EcoCentre, and details about public transport and parking, please visit this website: http://www.griffith.edu.au/environment-planning-architecture/ecocentre/about-us

Please note: you can pay for parking ($5.50 per day) by paying at the auto-booths on the way into the campus

HOW TO BOOK YOUR PLACE:
This workshop is FREE but bookings are essential. Please use our online booking system: http://trybooking.com.au/FUDS

CATERING:
Morning and afternoon tea will be provided, but to ensure this event is free, lunch will not be provided. Participants are invited to bring their own lunch or purchase lunch at a café on campus.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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Draft Program
31 October 2014

9.00 - 9.20   Introduction and welcome –Michelle Maloney, Australian Earth Laws Alliance
and Annette Hutchins, Bridging the Divide

9.20 – 11.20   THREATS TO FOOD SECURITY – the impacts of CSG, mining and GMO on water, soil and food

- Concerns about impacts of CSG on cropping land - Graham Back, Organic crop farmer, Dalby
- Contamination of beef by chemicals associated with CSG - Jo Hill, Bulliac Angus Cattle Stud, Miles
- Will GMO harm our food? – Dr Kristen Lyons, Associate Professor Sociology, University of Qld
- The impacts of mining & coal seam gas on water and soil - Dr John Standley OAM, Agricultural chemist, Toowoomba
- How urban and rural people can work together to protect our food production – Drew Hutton, Lock the Gate Alliance
- Panel and audience discussions

11.20 – 11.50 – Morning Tea

11.50 - 1.00 – COMMUNITY RESPONSES – creating a healthier food future

- What is food sovereignty and the food sovereignty movement? Cat Green & Hope Johnson - Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance (AFSA)
- Community based sustainable food and energy: the work of 'Friends of Felton' and the Felton Food Festival - Rob and Sally McCreath, Friends of Felton
- Sustainable energy - a solution for our energy and agricultural sectors? - Darryl Bishop
- Panel and audience discussions

1pm – 2pm LUNCH

2.00 – 3.30 COMMUNITY RESPONSES - creating a healthier food future

- Different models for relationships between consumers and food producers
   - The story of Food Connect - Rob Pekin
   - Scenic Rim Robotic Dairy Farm - Greg Dennis
- Who will grow our food in the future? Supporting healthy food systems
   - Future Feeders - Joel Orchard and Anais Gschwind
   - The work of the Australian Youth Food Movement - Rebecca Daw and Sara May

3.30 – 4.00 Afternoon Tea

4.00 – 5.00 How can we bridge the rural/urban divide?

Discussions between all speakers from the day and symposium participants

5.00pm Close and next steps – Michelle Maloney and Annette Hutchins

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