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Protectors Camp Open

Groundswell Gloucester's protection camp is now open to campers. Groundswell welcomes visitors who wish to show support for Gloucester's sustainable future and to resist AGL's plans to frack the beautiful Gloucester valley.

Groundswell Gloucester has received final approval from the Shire Council for the Protectors campsite on Maslens Lane. Development consent was granted by Council at its meeting of the 17th of September, subject to certain conditions.

Despite outside influences attempting to take the decision out of Council hands and applying pressure to the Council to make it impossible for Groundswell to comply, Council stuck to the important conditions relating to health and safety. Groundswell Gloucester has now complied with these conditions.

Part of the concerted campaign against the camp and protestors has been the establishing of 'No Stopping' signs, at the behest of police, along the access road to AGL's fracking site.

"The State Government continues to give AGL unreasonable levels support in their unpopular endeavour to industrialise the valley, including a police escort in the early hours of last Monday when AGL's fracking equipment was brought in. Several arrests of peaceful protests have occurred during the last week. It's a shame that police are being used by the State to augment AGL's small army of hired guards", said Mr Hare-Scott

Nonetheless, Groundswell is committed to continuing its positive relationship with local police, who have expressed concern for local residents' safety as they exercise their right to protest.

A camp supervisory committee has been established. Ed Robinson, the landholder, said "One of our first priorities was to appoint a number of responsible people to provide round-the-clock security. They will have full authority to eject any person not complying with camp rules".

"In the event of any perceived threat, they will immediately inform the local police", he added."

A maximum of 200 campers will be allowed at any one time. A reception point will be located at the entrance, and strict records kept of all arrivals and departures. On-site activities will also be controlled, in order to avoid any disturbance to nearby residents.

While basic requirements such as drinking water and toilets will be available on-site, campers will be mainly dependant on local cafes and grocery stores for their food supplies.

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