



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Land Access Inquiry welcomed by Groundswell Gloucester**

The announcement by Resources Minister Anthony Roberts that Bret Walker SC has been appointed to inquire into and examine the arbitration process in relation to access to land by mining companies is warmly welcomed by Groundswell Gloucester.

Groundswell Gloucester member John Watts said:

*“The process by which miners can access private land has been the subject of much criticism. The process has widely been seen as unfair, unjust and very one sided. Bret Walker SC is very well respected and very experienced and is a great choice to conduct the inquiry. It is to be hoped that whatever recommendations he might make will be implemented to ensure a more level playing field in the future.*

*Groundswell Gloucester congratulates the Minister for taking this positive step and for showing that he is open to ideas and suggestions.”*

At a recent seminar held at Parliament House organised by The Sunrise Project and Lock the Gate this issue was discussed. Minister Roberts and his staff were present at the seminar and were clearly listening to the serious concerns being raised.

Groundswell Gloucester hopes that the Government is at last starting to understand that the whole area relating to mining laws and community rights and aspirations is causing disquiet in the community. This inquiry is a good start but many more reforms are badly needed so that the rights and interests of local communities are respected.

Groups such as Lock the Gate and Groundswell Gloucester are often unfairly criticised but it is clear that they are having a positive influence with government for the benefit of local communities.

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