

If a mining company, gas or coal, comes knocking at your door – be prepared, know your rights.

1. The holder of an Exploration Licence **MUST** have an access arrangement with the property owner in order to gain access.
2. The mining company **MUST** begin by serving the landholder **WRITTEN** notice of the mining company's intention.
3. This **MUST** be delivered personally to the landowner (not over the phone) and be addressed correctly.
4. This notice **MUST** contain:-
 - i) A detailed plan and description of the area of land to which access is sought, (including the number and location of boreholes), and
 - ii) A **full** description of the prospecting methods to be used.
5. **ALL** details **MUST** be **accurate**.
6. **The landholder is under absolutely no obligation at all to sign anything.** This is merely the first contact and a starting point for negotiations.
7. We recommend that landholders engage a solicitor or experienced negotiator to assist them (and meet in small groups with neighbours – your actions can affect their water supplies and vice versa) and for meetings to take place at a neutral location that is not at the landowner's property.

[Do not give these companies the opportunity to psychologically assess you and your asset base which they will use to their advantage in any negotiations. They are not your friends, no matter how personable they are. Meet them off your place, at a neutral location as you would for any other professional business.]
8. **Insist on everything in writing** and keep accurate diary notes of every contact made to/from the mining company plus retain all letters to and from the mining company.
9. If the landholder desires, the mining company can be directed to contact them only through their solicitor or legal advisor.
10. For further information and assistance on what the exploration access agreement should include; conditions that must be observed during prospecting; see the NSW Farmers Association series of documents regarding mining exploration [www.nswfarmers.org.au] .