



**Provisional guidelines for land owners: Shale gas** (the same guidelines can be followed for mining)

Various oil and gas companies applied for licences to subsequently explore for shale gas. The largest part of the application area is within the vicinity of the Karoo.

A number of important guidelines need to be followed in order to protect you as land owner if a company approaches you with regards to exploration or prospecting on your land.

1. The golden rule is to not allow the company on your land until an agreement and equitable compensation have been negotiated via your legal representative.
2. Contact your lawyer immediately and inform the company that all future communication with you must only take place through your lawyer.
3. Refer any correspondence from the oil or gas company to your lawyer.
4. It is important to agree on equitable compensation for the use of your land.
5. An agreement concerning the use of your land, roads, fences, the lock up of gates and similar factors must also be set out in writing and subsequently be complied with.
6. Insist on the approved and final rendition of the environmental management plan and/or exploration work schedule. Also insist on written identification.

Your legal representative will be able to lead you further. It is of the utmost importance that land owners are in possession of information concerning the nature and quality of their land before any exploration activities are undertaken. The quality of especially the ground water and any dams or rivers in the immediate affected area must be tested by an independent and professional person.

If any pollution or damage takes place, farmers must be empowered with evidence that the water or property was not polluted or damaged before the exploration or development process commenced.

For more information, visit <http://www.treasurethekaroo.co.za/>

Join the Alliance against Fracking. SMS "Karoo" to 45354. R1/SMS