

Twenty-five people are currently being assisted by the 'Growing the Braidwood Garlic Growers Project'. It's a collaborative, regional approach to growing garlic funded by a 25th anniversary Landcare grant.

The funding is to enable and engage people in Braidwood in growing garlic and to develop an alternative agricultural enterprise for this district. The project is looking at options for the region in terms of agriculture and climate change.

The participants have purchased garlic seed to plant beyond either what they would normally plant or for the first time. So, through the Garlic Project, 600 kilos of new garlic is being planted in the region.

Australians consume a lot of garlic but we only produce about 20% of that. One of the reasons this is that the main varieties of garlic that are grown, which we grow in this region as well, are from a garlic group that does very well over a broad range of climate zones but doesn't store for very long.

Most of the garlic grown on mainland Australia needs to be planted by March or April and harvested by November. They sprout in March/April which means they are not keeping for you to sell later in the season. Most of our garlic gets sold through November — February and sometimes into March period. From then on we don't have much Australian garlic on the market.

However there are a large number of varieties that grow in very cold climates across the northern hemisphere. Given the cold climate we have in Braidwood, we are in a position to grow some different varieties of garlic that are planted later. We can be planting into May and June, harvest later in December or January and also have a much longer storage capacity.

These varieties will store for a period of 12 months without wanting to sprout. This means that, as a region, we could position ourselves, with some of those varieties, to be supplying Australian garlic when there is no other Australian garlic on the market. That is a really significant step for a region to take and could provide a



viable alternative source of income. In that sense it is a very exciting project! We didn't get the funding contract signed off until March this year so that made it difficult to do a lot of planning or source these other types of garlics to start for this season so we decided that we would run the project over two growing seasons. We have to expend the funding by 30th June 2016 and we had to commence before 1st July 2015 so that means that it does encompass two planting seasons.

The idea for this year was to encourage people to grow more garlic and to encourage people who hadn't grown it before to get into garlic. I think we are doing that quite well given that we have a lot going into the ground. At the moment we are primarily growing the common varieties that are grown right across Australia, because, in the time that we had they are the easiest to source. Other varieties are potentially going to be quite expensive for people to start getting into because they are rarer in Australia and, for first time rounders, it is a bit scary to be spending a lot of money on seed. Growing the cultivars that we know grow well and are manageable to grow is a good way to get people into the project and significantly increase the seed stock of garlic in the region.

That means that people can grow what they have grown this year or double it but also start thinking about the other crops and developing seed stocks of other varieties to plant next year.

At our launch workshop we went into a lot of detail about how you grow garlic, quantity, spacing, those sorts of things. Through April this year everyone will be very busy planting, including me, so this couple of months is extremely hectic in the garlic season. Once the garlic is in the ground we will all have a little more time to do other things. We are keen to start exploring the different cultivars and to hold various workshops around that subject. We are also planning to visit a large garlic farm to see how garlic is grown on a larger scale.

In terms of participating in the project, it's too late for people to get seed and be included in the project this season as we have sourced the seed and it's all gone. If you haven't prepared a plot ready to plant you are too late for this season anyway but that doesn't mean that you can't keep informed about how the project is progressing and look at participating next year.

The people who are already planting their seed and who are in the project will keep a diary of how they cultivated the garlic, what additives they put in the soil and how it is growing. The Project will provide, or assist people to purchase, a rain gauge and a soil moisture tester because we need to keep accurate records in the different areas across the region.

If you are interested, email Su Wild River: upper.shoalhaven@gmail.com and she will include you in the Braidwood Garlic digital forum group. That is the forum where we are distributing information and letting people know what is going on.

People v Cyanide processing



Following a packed meeting at the Majors Creek hall with Monaro candidates John Barilaro and Peter Marshall, Matt Darwon spoke to Palerang Council at its April meeting.

Thank you for allowing me to address you this afternoon. I have no doubt, that had Cortona lodged an application to process on site using cyanide, after having consulted with the community and the local council for years, they would have been met with fierce opposition and would not have secured an approval to mine at Majors Creek. All over Australia, in fact, all over the world, communities are getting fed up of having to compromise their existing amenities, their local environments and waterways, their livelihoods, their land, and their children's futures for the sake of short term profits for the shareholders of mining companies and the directors of those companies and their five and six figure salaries.

I have not heard one person other than a Unity employee, since November 11th last year come forward and say that processing on site at Majors Creek using cyanide and using a tailings dam to store the heavy metals liberated via that process is wonderful.

I have not seen a single letter of support to the to the same effect in a newspaper. I have not overheard a conversation in a café or in the street and I have not seen meetings supporting the proposal held at majors creek hall where the space overflowed with people, or demonstrations where people shouted we love cyanide, we love heavy metals, we love toxic chemical storage facilities, we love risk to our environment.

Why? Because Unity Mining Limited

does not have the support of the community at Majors Creek, or the community at Araluen or Braidwood, or those people who live within the Eurobodalla Shire.

There is a term for what I speak about here. Its called 'Social License to Operate'. This term refers to the level of acceptance or approval by local communities and stakeholders of mining companies and their operations. The concept has evolved from the broader and more established notion of Corporate Social Responsibility and is based on the idea that mining companies need not only government permission but also social permission to conduct their business. It is the belief of the Majors Creek Catchment Guardians that it is the responsibility and duty of our elected representatives to ensure the process of determination of such applications to the department of planning are

scrutinized and indeed follow appropriate paths and channels. Who can the community turn to when government departments make decisions without securing social license to operate? The answer is the people we elect to represent us.

I do not stand here as a single individual.

I stand here to represent my local community and specifically to put forward a suggestion to the Councillors in this room, that when the public advertising period for these modifications commences not only should the Palerang and Eurobodalla Councils employ an independent expert to examine the social, economic and environmental ramifications of the proposal but that the Councils each put forward a two tiered submission, the second tier being one of outright opposition and objection to the proposals based on the overwhelmingly strong community objection to these modifications. I ask on behalf of the community that Council resolve to be the voice of its ratepayers in the capacity for which it was elected.

MATT SPEAKS ON BEHALF OF THE MAJORS CREEK CATCHMENT GUARDIANS INC.



BRONWYN SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE GARLIC PROJECT.

