This project cannot go ahead. Not only is gas and gas exploration detrimental to our environment and the insurance of maintaining the health of the land for future generations, it comes at great risk to the local community. This can be demonstrated by the 840,000 tonnes of salt waste to be dumped at a still unknown location, the risk of potential contamination of underground water via unknown geological faults, and the fact that despite the high risk of this project, the landholders affected by the gas industry may not be insured for public liability. The government’s failure to implement the Chief Scientist’s recommendations for managing risk from the industry is appalling.

This project will be detrimental to the community’s health, wellbeing, and sources of income as well as destroying the local environment including the potential destruction of 1,000 hectares of koala habitat as a result. The NSW Chief Scientist Mary O’Kane has made 16 recommendations to date to mitigate the risk of CSG. The government took it on board and made it policy, but has still not implemented it after almost six years.

It is inconceivable after the last three years of record drought and climate change being at the forefront of everyone’s minds that the government would even contemplate supporting, let alone approving, a project that puts the local community’s only secure water supply at risk. I appeal to you to do everything in your power to stop this catastrophic project going ahead. It is not supported by the local community and it is not a viable way forwards moving into our future. We have to leave toxic gas and fossil fuel projects in our past, embrace modern technology, and move forwards to a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable future. Don’t be pressured into doing this simply for the temporary financial gain of the few; consider the livelihoods, health, and reliable living conditions of the many and the vast majority of local communities and Australians as a whole first.