**Opposition to the Narrabri Gas Project**

Holly Creenaune

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**My family first moved to Gomeroi land in the very early 1900s, attempting to farm at Baradine, and then later in Gilgandra.**

My grandparents were both raised in Gilgandra and my family still live there today. Our Creenaune family farm is still there on Creenaune Lane, on the road out of Gilgandra toward the Warrumbungles, and it still carries wheat and sheep crops. My grandparents met at a dance at Biddon Hall more than 70 years ago, and are still married today. Today I work for an organisation focused on protecting the environment and restoring a safe climate, especially from the impacts of Australian fossil fuel extraction, and I am deeply opposed to the Santos Narrabri Gas Project.

**First, I am deeply concerned about the impacts of Santos’ proposed project on the land and culture of the Gomeroi people.**

The project will have enormous impacts on a landscape that is hugely significant landscape for Gomeroi people. Santos’ own Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment identified 90 known Aboriginal cultural heritage sites in the area - these sites should not be disturbed, destroyed or impacted. There has been insufficient surveying of the area to understand and be able to protect the Aboriginal cultural heritage - and it is urgent that this work is done before any further work on site.

**Second, I am opposed to the project because of the impacts on groundwater.**

Santos’ groundwater models are flawed and inaccurate. Santos aim to remove vast quantities of water, causing the depressurisation and loss of water in the Pilliga Sandstone, the southern recharge of the Great Artesian Basin. The commission cannot approve the project with such deeply flawed groundwater modelling. The NSW systems of monitoring and enforcement are also inadequate - and we cannot ‘fix’ the problems once they occur.

**Thirdly, I am opposed to the project because of the impacts on the Pilliga Forest and biodiversity.**

The Forest is the largest temperate woodland in eastern Australia and it is simply not appropriate to hand this over to a major fossil fuel industrial site. The impacts on the threatened plants and animals will be significant.

**Finally, I am opposed to the project because of the unacceptable impacts on the global climate.**

The project would produce 128 million tonnes of carbon pollution. If the world is to avoid the worst of climate change, this project simply cannot go ahead. Australia is a signatory to the Paris Climate Agreement and we are failing to meet our obligations.

**Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.**

The Traditional Owners and residents of North Western NSW have now had many years of stress and uncertainty. If this project goes ahead, there will be decades more, with water and land at serious risk. A huge range of people have their voices in opposition to this Santos Narrabri Gas Project, and I join them in that opposition.