

To Whom It May Concern,

I request that the proposed Gas Field near Narrabri be rejected for many reasons.

1. The economics don't add up – there will be jobs created on this project, but lost from other industries due to this project. People will need to retrain to work on the Gasfield, which is a dying industry. Those jobs lost from other industries due to the Gasfield development will not return once the Gasfield is no longer economically viable.
2. The future is not fuelled by gas, nor any fossil fuel. The future which will bring safety and prosperity, is in renewable energy sources. The damage to our economy wrought by Climate Change will far outweigh any advantage gained by this project. Its impact will be negative for years after this project has ended. This project will produce in the order of 5million tonnes of carbon each year, an emission no country can afford.
The economic benefits derived from opening this area to Gas development will be short lived, and small compared to the impact on our climate, both of the end use of the gas extracted and of the inevitable leaks and emissions in the development and extraction processes themselves.
3. Water is such a precious resource. This project seeks to use ground water at such volumes that it will reduce the access of landholders, and our precious ecological communities. Both these stakeholders depend on the pressure in these clean groundwater sources to survive. Both also have very limited enfranchisement in this approval process.
It would seem that the resources which this project proposes to use and pollute, aren't well understood. Far more should be known about the interconnectedness of these resources before any project approval is contemplated. Anything less would be irresponsible.
4. The local community is against the proposal. The Environmental Impact Statement attracted 22,721 submissions, of which 98% were objections. The majority (63%) of the 470 submissions from the immediate local area were also objections.
Likewise, the Gomeroi Community have not been properly consulted, with further assessment of sacred sites and important places to be conducted after approval of the project. This is deeply disrespectful. This process allows no provision for protecting these sites from damage at all.
5. The damage to the Pilliga sounds small, but in dissecting this forest and scattering the damage through the forest, the ecological disturbance is far greater than the absolute number of hectares cleared suggests.
This area is deeply significant, particularly so since the recent bushfires have left precious little habitat for many species. This area should be preserved rather than damaged for so little public economic benefit.

I request that the proposal of the Narrabri Gas Project be rejected on the basis of public cost benefit – the damage done by this project far outweighs the benefit to the public.

Thank you for receiving my submission,
Jocelyn Cutler