# Objection to the Narrabri Gas Project

This is the most controversial project in the history of NSW planning law. Overwhelmingly, the community directly affected by the project do not want it, and nor do the people of NSW. Here are some reasons, in summary:

* The current NSW government position places unjustified confidence in Santos to fulfil its responsibilities, with little hard information to support this confidence.
* Santos currently has NO disposal plan for the mountain of toxic waste that will be generated.
* Over 20 years Santos will remove 37 billion litres of water from deep below the Pilliga. There is grossly insufficient scientific understanding of the effect this will have on the Pilliga and surrounding regions, either during the 20 year life of the project or in perpetuity.
* The NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer advises against proceeding, and notes the Government’s failure to implement the 2014 recommendations.
* Coal seam gas brings upheaval and division to rural communities. A study carried out in southern Queensland found overwhelming dissatisfaction with the changes that had been forced onto people living in gasfield areas.
* The cultural heritage of the Gomeroi Aboriginal people will suffer if this project goes ahead. The Pilliga is a hugely significant area for the Gomeroi, with more than 90 identified sacred sites. No detailed surveying of new areas taken in by the current proposal have been surveyed yet. The working concept of ‘approve now, fill in the details later’ could see Santos ending up as the next Rio Tinto in destroying Aboriginal and Australian heritage.
* Biodiversity in the Pilliga has already been severely compromised by gas and other developments. There are at least 10 threatened plants and 35 threatened animals in the gasfield area, including one of the most important koala populations in NSW which on current trajectory is headed for extinction.
* Environmental destruction is forever. The gas produced by this project will be gone within 20 years, most of it will be sold overseas and NSW residents will continue to pay high prices for locally produced gas and see very little in royalties from Santos.