

Office of the Independent Planning Commission NSW  
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street,  
Sydney, NSW, 2000  
Ph: (02) 9383 2100 Email: [ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Independent Planning Commission,

This is a submission objecting to the Narrabri Gas Project.

My name is Geri Roggiero (aka Geraldine Simmons) and I am a supporter of not-for-profit organisations such as the Wilderness Society, Australian Conservation Foundation and World Wildlife Fund. Since becoming a wildlife artist and signature member of Artists for Conservation in 2004 I have become more involved in standing up for nature and being a voice for the endangered wildlife who are losing their homes as a result of deforestation and climate change mainly caused by the fossil fuel industry.

Ever since I was a child I have loved nature and drawing the animals that live in our beautiful forests and other natural habitats. I have witnessed much destruction to wildlife and habitat over my lifetime. I suffer from extreme anxiety and depression knowing that our precious forests and wildlife are disappearing so fast as a result of human behaviour.

As a supporter of the Wilderness Society I have learned that if the Narrabri Gas Project is approved it would have a devastating effect on the Pilliga Forest which is home to a number of native species and vast native habitats. These native species are at a high risk of becoming extinct and their habitats would be destroyed.

My key objections to this project cover biodiversity, water, climate change, bushfire risk and Aboriginal culture. Here are my key objections in more detail:

Biodiversity:

35 listed threatened animals and 10 threatened plants (within the project area) rely on the Pilliga for survival - including the one and only Pilliga Mouse, Squirrel Glider, and Black-striped Wallaby. Woodland birds would be threatened including the Glossy Black Cockatoo, Powerful Owls, Barking Owls and Diamond Firetail.

The project should not be approved as the Assessment Report fails to assure there is adequate knowledge and understanding of the current status of the Pilliga Mouse and all 35 threatened animals in the project area or of an appropriate management regime.

Water:

Water is life. This project would mean drilling into the Great Artesian Basin and draining aquifers. It would take water away from farmers and toxic chemical exploration would pollute natural water resources.

Climate Change:

Extracting and burning gas will make the climate crisis much worse. Science dictates that no new fossil fuel basins can be opened if we wish to mitigate extreme weather events that are already impacting us all right now.

NSW does not need more gas resources which fuel dangerous climate change. An October 2019 report from Pegasus Economics states solar and wind is developing faster than expected, reducing in cost and already displacing the need for gas-fired electricity.

Total greenhouse emissions produced by the project could be a whopping 127.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, or 5 million tonnes a year. In a time when Australia is struggling to meet its commitments under the Paris Climate Agreement, this one gas field would increase Australia's greenhouse emissions by nearly 1% per year.

Bushfire risk:

Infrastructure of the Narrabri Gas Project poses a serious bushfire risk due to its highly flammable nature and the Assessment Report fails to adequately account for how this risk management will be managed.

The Rural Fire Service has repeatedly expressed serious concerns about the operation of a gas field and its burning flares in a highly flammable environment like the Pilliga forest.

Australia has lost 30% of koala habitat after the 2019/20 bushfires. We cannot afford to destroy anymore koala habitat.

Aboriginal culture: The Narrabri Gas Project threatens the living heritage of the the Gamilaraay peoples.

Aboriginal heritage is not adequately assessed. No detailed new survey for the area for Aboriginal cultural heritage has taken place yet.

In conclusion, the negative impact of the Narrabri Gas Project clearly outweighs any perceived economic benefits. The loss on so many levels caused by coal seam gas mining would be irreversible and unconscionable. More than ever we need to stop anything that will cause more harm to our native wilderness.

Due the above reasons I strongly object to the Narrabri Gas Project. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and for considering my submission. I look forward to hearing from you in regards to this submission.

Yours sincerely,  
Geri Roggiero