To whom it may concern,

I am a Year 11 student in Sydney, NSW and am horrified at the prospect of yet another coal seam gas project being introduced, particularly when the transition away from fossil fuels could not be more urgent. As you are likely aware, this project would be the most controversial to date; the Environmental Impact Statement attracted 22,721 submissions, of which 98% were objections. Moreover, the majority (63%) of the 470 submissions from the immediate local area were also objections. This project is evidently illogical, with the social and economic impacts being so negative, especially on a local scale. It is irrefutable that coal seam gas brings only upheaval and division to rural communities. A CSIRO survey in 2014 found that only 6% of local people living in Queensland gasfield areas thought the industry had improved their lives while 42% said that they were “not coping” or “only just coping”. Furthermore, as a young person, it is clear to me that this project will only amplify the overwhelming anxiety placed on my generation, as we face a dangerous and rapidly warming climate. Globally, the UN Environment Program’s Production Gap Report in 2019 found that, “With average lifetimes of 20 years or longer for pipelines, terminals, wells, and platforms, the time to begin planning for a wind-down of gas production is, as with other fossil fuels, already upon us.”. Their report found that to achieve the Paris Climate Agreement goal of keeping average global warming well below 2 degrees, global gas production needs to peak by 2030 and decline after that. To meet the safer 1.5 degrees warming limit, gas production needs to peak this year; not be increased with the introduction of yet another coal seam gas project. Total greenhouse gas emissions produced by the project could be 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 gasfield would increase Australia’s greenhouse gas emissions by nearly 1% per year. It is disheartening that this project has come gained the traction it has thus far, however there is still time. I strongly urge the Independent Planning Commission to consider how deeply it will impact the futures of Australian young people.

Thank you,

Johanna Lafoa’i