

## **Narrabri Gas Project** **IPC Submission**

This debate has been and is more about feeling rather than thinking from those opposing. The main issues such as water, environment and economics are well covered in the report from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment NSW to the Independent Planning Commission NSW on the Narrabri Gas Project.

As outlined in the Department's report, there is some environmental risk. The NSW Chief Scientist, the CSIRO and others have found risk to be minimal and can be managed. If we can't trust the integrity of our chief scientists and other scientists in this country then we are in a lot of trouble, no matter what industry we are involved in or support. I can't think of any industry anywhere that has no environmental risk. This is an industry and project that has and will be well regulated, that is likely to provide more and better quality water, than otherwise would be available, for the benefit of us all.

In terms of the economy, we have a prospect of feeding an inland port at Narrabri, linking in to the Inland Rail Project, known as the Northern Inland Port ([http://www.narrabri.nsw.gov.au/index.cfm?page\\_id=1042&display\\_news\\_id=1323](http://www.narrabri.nsw.gov.au/index.cfm?page_id=1042&display_news_id=1323)), that will employ over 1000 people. The catalyst for such a development is a cheaper, locally produced energy source.

For example: The anchor tenant could be a fertilizer manufacturer, producing 400, 000 tonnes of urea annually. The alternative and current practice, is to purchase urea from overseas that is produced in China by burning coal or from the US using fracked shale gas.

Locally sourced gas (not fracked) and local manufacturing seems like a pretty good option to me. Our existing industry such as Agriculture can benefit from cheaper locally produced fertiliser.

From my observations over the years and to finally read the report from the Department, I can see no reason to refuse this project and agree to accept the recommendation for approval.