Independent Planning Commission:

# Narrabri Gas Project

# Submitted by Fay Walker

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I strongly object to this project going ahead for the following reasons:

1. It will increase pollution due to the release of carbon gases especially methane which rises temperatures excessively in the short term. No carbon emissions are sustainable in our current globally warning climate. Australia had its worst catastrophic bushfires in 2019-2020. A fossil fuel future is not sustainable.
2. Secondly fracking is known to cause earthquakes and the fossil fuel industry is known to be reluctant to share critical knowledge on safety with the community.
3. This means that the Great Artesian Basin and the Pillage Forest are at risk. Coming from a farming family (west of the Great Dividing Range), we knew the value of water and the Great Artesian Basin from early childhood. It can be damaged: the water table is not infinite. Loss of Great Artesian Basin is not negotiable – the risk to the basin from fracking outweighs the benefit of gas.
4. The local community do not benefit by fracking and oil drilling projects. The workers are usually ‘fly in and fly out’ who have little, if any, time to mix with locals. The land loss to farmers is enormous. Pollution is dangerous to health (eg 470 additional deaths due to bushfire pollution this year).
5. Even more importantly, the local people want to invest in renewables that can create jobs for the community, co-exist with famers and not damage the environment.

It is time to take this opportunity to put the billions of dollars earmarked to an established industry that should be independent by now into projects and markets for the future. Here is a great opportunity to establish renewable energy projects, invest in the energy grid renewal. Projects that will survive along with our people and the environment into the foreseeable future. Fossil fuels have an end date so why invest – not a good risk profile.

Thank-you for opening the portal for comments and hopefully serious consideration of our long term future.

Yours sincerely

Fay Walker

Professional experience: Nursing and Occupational Health.