Submission against the Narrabri Gas Project.

The Independent Planning Commission

To Whom it may Concern,

Living and farming on the rich Liverpool Plains for the past 29 years I find it unbelievably reckless, environmentally corrupt and big company bullying all in the quest for the ‘big dollar’ at any cost.

‘Short term gain for long term pain’ – never has there been a truer statement!

To have been witness over the past twenty to thirty years, as successive Governments of both persuasion have approved countless Open Cut Coal Mines and Gas Fields with little to no regard for the impending impact on the associated towns, natural environment, water aquifers and agriculture and early Australian Heritage sites has been criminal.

The battle has now moved to the NSW Narrabri region – 95,000 hectares in the north eastern part of the Pilliga forest, where Santo plans to develop 850 new coal seam gas wells while clearing close to 1,000 hectares of forest in the process.

If the NSW State Government is either too environmentally stupid, or just plain weak to stand up to Santo, then as usual “people power” must rise to the occasion to help protect and preserve Mother Nature’s Earth for the generations to follow.

This EARTH is the only planet we have to live and exist on – why are these Gas, petroleum and coal mining exploration companies so insistent on ripping into the landscape with little to no regard for the irreparable damage they will undoubtedly create.

The Great Artesian Basin runs and recharges through the Pilliga – who in their right mind would risk damage to these life-giving water aquifers for a short-term gas project of about twenty years. Almost the whole of Australia has just started to emerge from the worst drought in living history. I can’t understand how any project could be considered that would without doubt put Australia’s inland groundwater at risk!

Reports suggest over the 20-year life of the project Santo will remove 37.5 billion litres of water from deep below the Pilliga and treat it in the Leawood water treatment plant. This treatment will produce up to 840,000 tonnes of solid salt, laced with heavy metals – Santo has no disposal plan for this by-product.

This proposed Gas Project is wrong on so many levels:

* The unbelievable risk to the valuable underground water and Great Artesian Basin.
* The treatment of salty contaminated waste.
* The upheaval and division to rural communities has been well documented from other gas and mining areas.
* The inflated house prices that inevitably following mining, impacts against those of low income.
* It’s a proven fact that drug dealers target mining towns to take advantage of those earning the big money on offer.
* It’s also be proven that successful agricultural businesses in rural Australia struggle to attract employees – unable to match the high wages on offer by the gas and mining companies.
* Scientific reports have proven beyond doubt the health of residence living near to established gas fields has been dramatically compromised – causing all manner of Auto Immune disease and illness.
* As the world works to reverse ‘Climate Change’ Australia must surely be seen as loathed hypocrites to still be approving gas and mining projects when there are better renewable options for power available.
* Much of the coal seam gas Australia mines is exported around the world – why are we so prepared to rape and pillage our country? Leaving it in a worthless state forever more.

**Those of us that care, are not prepared to allow this stupidity to continue.**

This era will go down in history as the most destructive and abusive on the Australian landscape and environment ever – one would think the population as a whole was preparing to pack up to leave for another planet in the next 40 to 50 years the way Coal Seam Gas and Coal Mining in the eastern states has been able to expand and flourish even though there has been much opposition from “us average garden variety, what would we know people”.

**JUST TO MAKE IT CLEAR – THERE IS NO OTHER PLANET TO GO TO IF THIS ONE IS BUGGERED UP!!!**

Finally, we as citizens and the elected Government have a responsibility to leave this country in a better state than when we found it for the Generations to follow – at the present rate there’ll be nothing left for the Generations that follow.

Greed is a very unattractive trait!