I am voicing my opposition to the Narrabri Gas Project. The mining of coal seam gas has been proven to be a hugely risky and polluting form of mining.

Many creeks and rivers have already been polluted by coal seam gas mining as well as groundwater being polluted. The Narrabri Gas Project will be no different. It will place local waterways at great risk of pollution.

The Project will place the local populace at risk from air quality issues and one is not able to smell the methane emissions which make them particularly dangerous.

Later on there is likely to be seepage of contaminants from abandoned wells and landfill sites.

The fires of last Summer should act as a warning that we need to reduce our carbon emissions, not increase them. Over 20 years, methane has a global warming potential that is 85 times greater than carbon dioxide. When coal seams are disturbed by gas extraction, methane is unavoidably lost to the atmosphere as fugitive emissions.

This is an area that is prone to bushfires, and the mine could easily ignite a fire in a drought stricken landscape.

Traditional Owners, environmentalists, farmers and concerned Australian citizens from all walks of life are united in their campaign to oppose this project. Over 22,000 people lodged formal objections to the Narrabri Gas Project’s Environmental Impact Statement, more than for any other project in the NSW planning system. This should be enough for the project to be refused.

There is also likely to be harm done to indigenous heritage and cultural sites.

For all the above reasons, I oppose the Narrabri Gas Project and I hope it will not be given the green light to go ahead.