Dear Commissioner

I wish to register an objection to the proposed Narrabri Gas Field development in the Pilliga forest and surrounds.

It concerns me greatly this proposed development poses a significant risk to the Great Artesian Basin and the vital water it provides.

I am aware of the natural "pipes" within the underlying sandstone of the Pilliga which act as conduits for recharging the basin. Any disruption to these natural features would have disastrous consequences for the basin and those that rely on its life-giving water.

In a country as dry and unpredictable as ours, can we really afford to gamble on what will happen if this project is allowed to go ahead? In my opinion, no we cannot.

As well as the threat to a vital water supply there is the question of the damage this project will do to the natural environment.

The Pilliga is one of the last remaining tracts of native forest on the Western Plains and, as such, is vital to the survival of countless native species including Koalas, Squirrel Glider, Pilliga Mouse and Black-striped wallaby as well as numerous bird species such as the Glossy black cockatoo and the Brown tree creeper.

Each well will require an area of cleared land around it and an access road constructed to the site. It is well established that every road or cleared pocket allows introduced weeds and feral animals to invade the area further threatening our precious native wildlife.

Then there is the question of Carbon emissions from the extraction and use of the gas.

In this time of increasing Co2 levels and the dire need to move away from fossil fuels, this project defies belief that it is even being considered let alone championed by the current Government.

I firmly believe that there are far greater opportunities for employment in the area in the establishment of renewable energy initiatives with far reaching benefits to the local community and the environment as a whole.

I, as a citizen of NSW and of this amazing planet, urge your commission to wholly reject the Narrabri Gas Project for the sake of our environment and our grandchildren.

“We do not inherit the Earth from our forebears, we borrow it from our grandchildren”.

Yours Faithfully

Martin Bell