

Narrabri CSG Submission - Objection

I wish to formally OBJECT to the proposed Pillaga CSG plan, for the following reasons:

1. Gas is a factor in climate change - it is not the low-emission clean renewable source of energy that it is touted to be. With the world facing severe and irreversible climate disruption unless temperature rises can be limited to 1.5 degrees, now is not the time to be adding to emissions by the opening up of more fossil fuel projects.
2. Renewable sources of energy are becoming cheaper than gas and coal, and the cost of gas production in the Pillaga will not lead to cheaper or more available gas supplies. A 2019 Pegasus report showed that energy from wind and solar is already cheaper than fossil fuels.
3. The proposed gas field will use enormous amounts of groundwater. In a country as dry as Australia, this is reckless. Studies have not been able to confirm that it is safe to access the Great Artesian Basin. The Pillaga is an important recharge area for the Great Artesian Basin, on which agriculture depends. There is no accurate knowledge about the structure and depth of the aquifers. Contamination of the Great Artesian Basin with waste would be catastrophic.
4. There is no plan for the disposal of contaminated salt waste from the project. Previous spills have caused the dieback of vegetation and leaching into underground water. Council tips do not have to accept this waste. There have already been 20 reported spills.
5. The Pillaga is the largest area of temperate woodland in NSW. Establishing 850 gas wells throughout, with their associated roads and infrastructure, will destroy the integrity of this valuable woodland.
6. The Pillaga is home to 35 species of threatened animals and 10 species of threatened plants.
7. The area is the sacred land of the Gamilaraay people. No Indigenous Land Use agreements have yet been signed.
8. A gas field of this size presents a real risk of bushfire, the gas flares exacerbating the risk.
9. In surveys, 97% of landowners strenuously object to this proposal. They fear for their farms, their water supply and their way of life.
10. The number of jobs associated with this project will almost certainly be outweighed by the loss of jobs in agriculture and the local area.

In short, this project is destructive, unnecessary and reckless, and I strongly urge that it not be approved.

Kathryn Chapman
7 Clifton Ave Glenbrook 2773.