

IPC Submission to the Narrabri Gas Project – Objection

As an Australian tax payer and voter with sincere concerns about the negative and irreversible consequences of governmental decisions on the long term future, health, water and food security of Australia, I have spent considerable time and effort examining the evidence both for and against the coal seam gas project at Narrabri. I am aware of the need to supply energy and generate jobs for the health of the economy.

However when I view this imperative against the large body of evidence regarding the consequences of fracking, capturing, then pipe lining the gas for use, alarm bells go off.

Although not a scientist myself, I have attended seminars and read numerous articles where scientists in the specialised fields of industrial chemistry, toxicology and human health have reported their dire concerns regarding the consequences of coal seam gas mining. These concerns lie in the context of predictions of global temperature increases and increasing extremes of dry and drought.

The value of clean water supply cannot be overstated. Clean usable water is a populations most valuable long term resource. The geography of the Narrabri area is significant as the southern recharge of the Great Artesian Basin. If the coal seam gas project were to go ahead we are likely to get gas for 25 years, employ a few hundred people and net income from supply of gas. Along with that is likely to come, depletion of the groundwater aquifers, contamination of aquifers and ground water with the release of a multitude of long term toxins dangerous to human health, livestock and soil.

The detailed expert advice on this irreversible, long term contamination is truly alarming.

The track record from existing coal seam fracking and mining is not good. It is known that of the 16 recommendations made by the NSW chief scientist in 2014 to guard against risks, only 2 have been properly implemented. The capacity to properly remediate once the aquifer is disturbed and the volatile organic compounds are liberated is impossible. You can't unscramble an egg. It is common sense to exercise the cautionary principle when the stakes are so high.

As a resident of a small town near Lismore, I know of people who drove trucks dealing with wastewater from exploration drills around Casino a few years ago. These men experienced a range of disturbing symptoms including headaches, nose bleeds and stomach cramps while working around the sites. These symptoms went away when the work stopped. It is also known locally that people living on property around gas wells near Chinchilla are experiencing health issues directly related to the unconventional gas activity. The mining companies are said to pay hush money to these families. Again this is cause for alarm.

As an ordinary citizen who cares for the long term future of our society and economy, doing a risk assessment on the Narrabri Coal Seam Gas project, I say no. Investment in renewable energy is far preferable as it is cleaner and more sustainable for the long term prosperity of people and the economy. Without the Narrabri coal seam gas project, future generations will benefit from having ongoing clean Artesian water, uncontaminated agricultural land and a community of people not threatened by allergenic, mutagenic and carcinogenic substances in our food chain.

Thank you for considering my submission in strongly objecting to the Narrabri Coal Seam Gas Project
Lee Anne Stansfield