

I believe that the **Santos Narrabri Gas Project** should **NOT** go ahead due to the following reasons:

Economic:

How is it economic for Australian consumers, to be buying back the gas that we have extracted, compressed, and liquified and exported overseas and then shipped back to be sold on the domestic market at a higher price than on the international market? Sure maybe someone is making a price advantage but it is not the Australian citizen. Of course this tendency to sell gas at a higher price on the domestic market has been around for a long time and so far we have been unable to stop it so why would this situation be any different. To build extra pipelines and attendant infrastructure is a wasteful and enormously expensive and just not necessary. As with all fossil fuel mining the government will be called upon to provide subsidies, tax breaks or other concessions, so the taxpayer is again losing funds that could be readily diverted to other purposes such as public education and health.

Employment:

CSG industry jobs are at a cost to employment in other sectors in rural areas.

David A Fleming and Thomas G Measham reported that the coal seam gas industry in QLD took jobs away from farming and service industry. "For every job created in the CSG industry 1.8 jobs agricultural jobs were lost 0.9 service sector" (ref. Brochure distributed by North West Alliance.)

Community:

The Northwest Alliance cites surveys that indicate that almost all (96%) of the community wish to be gas free. Some of the community concerns relate to:

* the huge amount of water and land required to mine CSG. Does Santos have a plan to dispose or use its subsequent transformation into <500,000 tonnes of unusable salt water. Santos's proposed project spans across 3.2 million hectares of NSW Pillager forest, and compulsorily acquired farming lands which constitutes an enormous and unwanted disruption of current land practices.

*Aboriginal Cultural sites sacred to the Gamilaray people will be destroyed.

*The proposal is the beginning of a massive Santos plan which involves the installation of six more gasfields. With 22,700 formal objections already lodged, I wonder how Santos can still think that their controversial proposals could be advantageous to anyone but themselves, even in their case where there are huge startup costs.

*Water and environmental pollution: 37 billion litres of water will be sourced from the great Artesian. This will have the effect of lowering the water table causing possible depressurising effects. Despite assurances by Santos that they can prevent toxic spillages, history shows to the contrary. Spillages in the QLD fields resulted in water and ecosystems contamination. The toxins included uranium and other heavy metals and in 10 years there has not been any evidence of remediation or a cleanup by Santos. Trees and other habitats for animals have completely disappeared.

Bad management and Cover Ups:

To add to this, Santos has aggrieved the members of the communities in NSW, near already established sites, by not reporting incidents of leaking, spillage and contamination. In 2012 Santos was fined by the NSW EPA for 2 separate discharges of polluted wastewater between 2010-2012. Other historical breaches of conditions of title in relation to petroleum, have led to Santos being fined \$50,000. No wonder people are doubting the credibility of this company.

Air Pollution:

A major issue with issue with CSG (aka Coal Seam Methane) mining is that leakages, otherwise called "fugitive emissions", are difficult to contain during the extraction process. These emissions add significantly to greenhouse gases. Methane is 86 times more powerful than Carbon Dioxide

when impacts are compared over 20 years and 34 times more powerful when impacts are measured over 100 years. (ref. Home Truths, p28-30, July 2019)

We are only just beginning to recognise the health impacts of exposure to CSM and other associated noxious gases. Children are usually the first to be affected. Doctors for the Environment listed a number of health problems in relation to “the release of volatile organic compounds from unconventional gas mining, (fracking). has been associated with rashes, nausea and seizures in children. A large study in rural Colorado recently showed an increase in the prevalence of heart defects in babies whose mothers lived within 10 miles of a gas well”

(ref.http://dea.org.au/news/article/the_mining_and_burning_of_coal_effects_on_health_and_the_environment which references this article <https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2011/195/6/mining-and-burning-coal-effects-health-and-environment>)

Climate Change:

Santos cannot keep denying the reality of climate change. Our weather is getting hotter and the last 5 years have been the hottest on record globally. There is no reason yet to assume that each year will not be hotter than the last. This trend is caused by the build up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. This build up is produced by the burning of fossil fuels to obtain energy. Whilst LNG is considered to be less polluting if combusted efficiently, due to toxic emissions during the extraction process. CSG becomes just another fossil fuel. It is no more ‘greenhouse friendly’ than coal itself. To turn around the effects of climate warming we all need to adopt an approach that seeks to leave fossil fuels in the ground and that sustains not only our livelihood but our future health, the environment and clean water reserves.

Santos needs to review honestly the efficacy, ethics and aims of its operations in Australia and internationally, and ask itself honestly if the costs and outcomes are justified. They need to ask themselves are they doing the least amount of harm to the natural environment which is becoming more fragile by the day, and understand the not insignificant health impacts of the inevitable contamination of the air and water resources caused by CSG mining. Finally Santos must acknowledge that that CSG mining is just not economic when alternative, benign, inexpensive sources of energy are being more easily accessed.

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