There are so many reasons why the Santos CSG development should not be approved. I will give a brief outline of why I oppose this development.

* The worlds scientists are telling us that if we are to have any chance of controlling dangerous Climate Change we must stop burning fossil fuels in . So we should not be starting a new fossil fuel mining project at this time.
* The site for the CSG wells sits atop the Great Artesian Basin. A water reserve essential for our farmers. With the world needing more capacity to produce food it is completely foolhardy to put our water security in jeopardy. This is particularly relevant in Australia – being the one of the driest continents on earth.
* The Pilliga area is rich in indigenous heritage and holds deep cultural significance to the Gomeroi people. It is completely disrespectful to allow a mining development in this area which will destroy much of their heritage. At a time where the world is focussing on Black Lives Matter – approving a development which disrespects our Indigenous people in such an extreme manner, will be condemned world wide.
* Santos has an extremely poor record of compliance to environmental requirements and has already had some serious incidents that have caused irreparable damage. This was during the “exploration” phase. There is no evidence to suggest the company will have any improvement in their environmental performance if the full scale development was approved.
* There is no acceptable disposal method for the waste salt that will be produced as part of the mining process. This is a significant issue as the salt, in the enormous quantities that will be produced, will be a huge contamination danger to wherever it is disposed.
* The Pilliga Forest is the last remaining forest of its type in Eastern Australia and is home to many endangered wildlife. After the recent devastating fires where millions of birds and animals were killed and habitat destroyed, we should be doing everything to preserve the remaining habitat for our wildlife.