

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Amelia Thompson. I am a young, 20-year-old Australian.

I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed Narrabi Gas Project that will take place in the Pilliga Forest.

Firstly, ANY expansion or continuation of fossil fuels is in direct conflict with our legal obligations to the 2016 Paris Accords, and with the top scientific recommendations for mitigating climate change. In fact, introducing any fossil-fuel based gas projects is a significant wasted opportunity - instead, why don't we consider tackling our energy *and* waste crises through a massive biogas (from composting) scheme?

The significance of the Pilliga Forest to Australia and Australians cannot be understated. This forest is one of our last remaining old growth forests, and a critical habitat for many species in the Great Dividing Range. I am incredulous that we have to debate about whether to save a forest and preserve our biodiversity after our people, our flora, our fauna and our economy staggered away from drought and wildfire LAST YEAR. The expansion of fossil fuels in a biodiversity hotspot is an insult. It should and MUST be out of the question.

Further to this, coal seam gas has been shown time and time again that it destroys our water table, leaving it depleted and polluted. Again, this is unthinkable in an agricultural region and a drought-prone continent. We can create gas and energy from many renewable sources, but we can only drink and eat one type of water and one kind of food.

The expansion of this project would spell disaster for our biodiversity, our economy and the wellbeing and livelihoods for all Australians, now and to come. Pilliga Forest, and what it does for us, is a national treasure.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my submission. Don't make the wrong move - choose your children.

Regards,

Amelia Thompson.

*A young Australian who will have to deal with your poor choices.*