Objection to Narrabri CSG Project

Anna Molan

The removal of dozens of billions of litres of water from the Pilliga, as is projected for the Santos CSG project, cannot be justified. There are likely to be disastrous effects on the Pilliga Sandstone water, which feeds the Great Artesian Basin. The project cannot ensure that essential groundwater above the proposed gas fields will be protected, and indeed acknowledges that there is likely to be “leakage”. This puts the whole region’s land use at risk.

Eastern Australia’s biggest temperate woodland is in the Pilliga, and it is home to numerous endangered species, including the koala. The CSG project will clear nearly 1,000 hectares across the region, and put these animal and plant species at risk. Even with the limited biodiversity surveys completed in the area, dozens of at-risk flora and fauna species have been identified. The biodiversity of the region must be protected by keeping the CSG project out.

Greenhouse gas emissions from the project will be enormous, in the region of 127.8 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent. This would make a nonsense of our Paris Climate Agreement undertakings, and in fact take our emissions up rather than allowing them to go down. Approving this gas project would go totally against the appeal of the United Nations to bring down gas production from this year.

I am an Australian trying to leave the world in a habitable state for my children and the species with which we share the Earth. I am shocked and dismayed that governments still want to give the green light to carbon-polluting projects like Santos’s Narrabri CSG development. I implore the Committee to look steadily at the future we are creating, and reject this project.

Anna Molan

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20 July 2020