

To whom it may concern,
I am a farmer, artist and educator from the Eden Monaro and I strongly object to the Narrabri Gas Project.

I object to it on the grounds of climate science.

I object, as a farmer, to the pollution and depletion of local aquifers, toxic spills, hazardous salt production and the damage that will be caused to the Great Artesian Basin recharge zone.

I support the rights and claims of the First Nations Gamilaraay people to the enjoyment and use of their traditional home and sacred places in the Pilliga Forest.

I object to the increased fire risk which Santos will place on the forest and the responding RFS.

I object to the stresses and loss of habitat within the unique, rare and biodiverse remnant ecosystem of the Pilliga forest. From the stygofauna to the koalas, we cannot afford to lose our biodiversity.

I object to the partisan nature of the “experts” Santos are employing and the cherry-picked statistics they provide. The past success and future projections put forward by Santos and their supporters regarding coal seam gas extraction are unrealistic, if not downright lies. This is not a viable project or industry. It is failing Worldwide, both environmentally and economically. There are renewable energy alternatives which will provide many more ongoing jobs. Santos will not lower the price of gas for NSW or create substantial ongoing jobs.

I object to the lack of social amenity and community cohesion which this gas project will bring to Narrabri and surrounding towns. We must all fight the pork barrelling to corrupt officials and niche interest groups by these huge fossil fuel corporations. Newer, bigger swimming pools won't do the town any good if there's no clean water to drink or to use for irrigation. A country town without prosperous farmers is not a thriving town. Ask business owners in Boggabri just down the Highway.

I am concerned that this Santos project will exacerbate local trauma as local police and legal systems are constantly occupied in putting down protest. Neither the majority of locals nor those of us from further afield

support the Narrabri Gas project. Be aware that protestors will become very active if Santos Gas expands, so the way to keep local police stations and courts unclogged is to reject the Santos application. The trauma of this project will extend in all directions, particularly as it opens the fertile Liverpool Plains and Hunter Valley to enforced purchase and lack of property insurance due to gas extraction and transport systems.

I few years ago I had a personal experience of “wasting” the time and resources of local constabulary and courts as the result of a very unpleasant experience I had while peacefully protesting against the Santos Leewood development in the Pilliga. I was assaulted and then charged with “assaulting” the Santos security guard who just happened to be “assaulting” me at the time. I eventually won the case on the grounds of self defence when I appealed the conviction in a different court, but not before it wasted about 6 days of local police and court time. In my opinion, the evidence in the case was corrupted and the Santos employees encouraged to corroborate each other’s lies. I can back this allegation up with the transcript of my case. I do not find Santos to be a fair or ethical company. They are unworthy of public support.

An example of Santos paranoia was seen last week as Justin Field, an Independent Member of the Legislative Council in the NSW Parliament, was walking in the forest and a Santos security guard gratuitously called the police out to the Pilliga.

I have always been a law abiding woman, but the fact that I am a parent, a global citizen and a follower of climate science has altered my priorities. Scientists are telling us that the planet cannot support new fossil fuel projects. Although I have heavy responsibilities and am about to turn 60, if the Santos Project goes ahead I intend to join my friends and relatives back at the protest frontline, putting my life and liberty at risk.

Yours sincerely,
Annette Schneider