We currently run approximately 5000 acres of mixed farming south west of the Warrumbungle National Park, near Tooraweenah community. We are a family of 5, with 3 children aged 8, 10 and 12 years. We are extremely concerned about the prospect of CSG mining in our area. The main concerns we hold in relation to the Narrabri Gas Project going ahead are:

* Our property is on the edge of the Artesian Basin and the high volume use of water required in extracting gas could impact our deep aquifers on our property. We need the water in our aquifers for farming, cropping and the bores to provide water to stock. During the drought we heavily relied on the aquifers to water our home, garden, showers and drinking water. We have concerns the water in the aquifers could decrease and the quality be affected.
* We understand that such development of the Narrabri Gas Project will produce high volumes of waste products, “up to 840 000 tones of solid salt waste, laced with heavy materials” as well as requiring “720 000 cubic metres of coal based drill cuttings” to dispose of. We object to any hazardous waste being dumped in the vicinity of our area. We do not know what the long term effects are to our health and our children’s health for the future.
* Given our location, within 20 km to the Warrumbungle National Park, we have concerns for bush fires being started from burning flares in the gas field.
* We heavily rely on several small communities in our local area. It is feared that drilling for coal seam gas in our region would cause divisions and disruptions in the communities, effecting the small businesses economically as well as social implications for families and school life for children. When neighbours and families in communities stop talking, children’s friendships are also impacted, and their childhood is reshaped.