Thinking for the future

The Narrabri Gas Project will not be beneficial in the long-term.

I am part of Gen Z, and so am a young person living in rural Australia. It would be in my interest and the interest of others my age and younger to avoid implementing the Narrabri Gas Project.

The Narrabri Gas Project may have some short-term benefit for the local economy as well as employment, but these short-term benefits are incomparable to the long-term environmental damage that this project will have.

The jobs provided through the Narrabri Gas Project may be stable for the 25 years of its predicted lifespan but after 25 years, these people will be left unemployed. These people, who were providing economical support to local businesses will then move to find jobs and leave these businesses without consumers. These businesses will then be unable to sustain supply and will close, leading to an abandoned community. Australia needs to be thinking in the long-term when it comes to projects in rural communities.

In addition to the issue of short-term over long-term gains, there is the environmental impact. The main concern is water, which could be said, is the most precious commodity in Australia. The Narrabri Gas Project is predicted to use 37.5 billion litres of water over 20 years. Removing this amount of water from the Great Artesian Basin will influence the way bores function, and potentially render them unusable. This is problematic as most farm businesses in Western NSW use this water to water their animals, which is their livelihood. The Narrabri Gas Project may destroy the agricultural productivity of one of Australia’s best agricultural areas. In the long-term this will impact supermarket supply, importing of beef and lamb for consumers, Australia’s exports of beef and lamb as well as local businesses and sustainably sourced meats. The impact of this will be felt across Australia, as one of the largest meat production areas in Australia will be removed.

There is also a lack of information about the disposal of the salt waste which will be removed during the Narrabri Gas Project. This is problematic because this salt waste is toxic and could negatively impact Australia’s native plants as well as local agricultural businesses.

Overall, the Narrabri Gas Project will only be beneficial to the economy of the region for a short period of time. This economic growth can be achieved without the negative environmental impact using renewable energy sources. These renewable energy sources will also be more sustainable environmentally and economically in the long-term. Australia needs to think for the future, not just the now.