**To the Independent Planning Commission**

What is more Valuable to the long term sustainability of Australia?

Energy or Agriculture?

Should we risk the long term sustainability of one, to fill a short term short fall of another.

My Name is Ben Egan and I am sixth generation farmer from Warren NSW.

On behalf of my Community, my ancestors as well as the future generations who wish to continue the legacy that is sustainable food and fiber production,

**I Object to the Narrabri Coal Seam Gas Project.**

Agriculture has, and always will be a driving force behind the Australian economy. Recent events (Drought, Fires, Pandemic and global instability) have shown us the importance of sustainable agriculture to the economy and the Australian people.

I have assessed this project carefully and acknowledge its merit, However, I believe, beyond reasonable doubt, that the level of risk to the water resources, soil and air quality, local food and fibre production and rural communities is grossly unacceptable.

It risks the Long Term Sustainability of The Great Artesian Basin, one of our country’s most precious resources, which is reported to have an economic value of **$12.8 Billion per Year.**

In return for a the Short Term gain of supplementing a short fall in Gas supply to the estimated value of **$0.47 Billion per year** with a lifespan of only 20 year.

* **The Return does not out weigh the risk!**
* **The 1700 jobs it creates does not out weigh the jobs it will destroy!**
* **The promise of contributing $120 million to a Community Benefit Fund is no more than a BRIBE!**

You have been given all the facts and received all the recommendations about the Project, and been told everything that “Could” be done.

Now it is the time to ask the question; “Should” it be done?

And if you listen to the Australian People, and truly believe in acting in the best interest of the public,

The Answer is NO!

Have the strength and courage to say No!

Do what is best for the LONG TERM sustainability of Australia

Do what is RIGHT!

Sincerely

Ben Egan

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**The “If’s Are too great!**

If something goes wrong during instillation, it will have catastrophic affects!

If something goes wrong during extraction, it will have catastrophic affects!

If something goes wrong during decommissioning, it will have catastrophic affects!

Years from now, When Santos has been and gone, the gas has been extracted. The wells have been decommissioned. The risk to the

* The Independent Water Expert Panel, which was established due to the significant community concerns about land and water impacts, identified uncertainties when investigating the risks of coal seam gas development.

*“Uncertainties, due to the lack of identified information about the deeper geological substrata, it concluded that these uncertainties could be addressed through ongoing monitoring, adaptive management and a robust regulatory regime”*

Drilling 1200m under the ground, through one of Australia’s most precious resources, into something we don’t fully understand and just **“Seeing what happens”** is utter stupidity!

The Narrabri gas project give the following reasons why it is unlikely to adversely affect the regions ground water resources

1.Its really Deep

2. the coal seams are

“*physically separated from the shallower aquifers by several aquitards (impermeable Layers) that would significant reduce the potential flow or drawdown of any water from the shallower aquifer to the deeper strata.”*

The Narrabri gas Project

As we descend into economic recession and potential depression, a cultural realignment and appreciation for food and fiber production will ascend across the nation.

You have been given all the facts and received all the recommendations about the Project, and been told everything that “Could” be done. Now it the time to ask the question.

Should it be Done?

And if you listen to the Australian People, and truly believe in acting in the best interest of the public, then the Answer is NO!

I have reviewed the Project and strongly object to its development on the following grounds:

The biggest concern raise by the public

The project will produce;

“*up to 200 terajoules (TJ) of gas a day for the domestic market over a period of at least 20 years, has a capital investment value of $3.6 billion and would create 1500 jobs during construction and 200 jobs during operation.”*

This is estimated to have a total value of **$9.5 Billion over 20 years**

(200TJ/day x $6.5/GJ (2019-2020 average spot price) x 365 days x 20 years)

The Great Artesian Basin has an economic value of **$12.8 Billion Per Yea**r

The number do not stack up!