To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my objection to the Narrabri gas project in the Pilliga region of North-West New South Wales proposed by Santos.

This objection is based upon the wealth of evidence to show that the Narrabri gas project will have disastrous consequences for the environment and local communities, and has been strongly and consistently opposed by the Gomeroi people who are the traditional custodians of the region. Aside from rich Aboriginal heritage sites which have already been identified, Santos has proposed to undertake surveys for additional sites only after receiving approval for the project. The continued risk posed to the Great Artesian Basin, which around one third of the state relies on for water, particularly in already drought-prone arid regions, is an unacceptable one. We already can see the effect of the gas industry on the Great Artesian Basin – combined with petroleum the gas industry accounts for a staggering 19 per cent of total water take, 87,000 megalitres per year. Individually, Santos will remove 37.5 billion litres of water over the coming two decades, leaving hundreds of thousands of tonnes of salt for which Santos has no plan for disposal.

As for the economic impact of the project, despite the posturing which has occurred around job creation, New South Wales will be propping up a failing industry. Santos has made the admission that while the project will create an estimated 190 local jobs, existing local manufacturing and agriculture jobs will be lost as a result. Tankers are idling in the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans with their unwanted, uncompetitive product. Santos itself has admitted that there will almost certainly be negative effects for Narrabri residents in terms of housing affordability, which will inevitably fall on already vulnerable population groups such as low-income earners and Indigenous residents who rely on rental housing.

Australia should be looking towards a future of renewable energy if we have any hope of mitigating the effects of climate change. New South Wales should show leadership by refusing to support a commercial project which will have devastating impacts for water, land, and people.

Thank you.