

Submission on the Narrabri Gas Project.

Thank you for your time and expertise which you bring to this Independent Planning Commission. My wife and I recognise you have a very difficult task which is so important for the environment and the future generations who will live and work in Narrabri and the surrounding areas.

We strongly object to the Narrabri Gas Project for the following reasons:

- Significant impact on Climate
- Loss of Native Fauna
- Contamination of our most precious resource
- Destruction of Ancient Indigenous sites

Our concerns are explained as follows.

Significant impact on Climate

You are well aware that Australia is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts like bushfires, drought and extreme heat. Yet another major gas extraction project such as this will add to Australia's exposure to climate risks. We understand this gas field will release in excess of 100 MT Greenhouse Gas emissions (GHGs) over its life time, which equates to an increase in Australia's GHG emissions of 1% per year. This will add to the increasing global temperature. Australia cannot afford to add any further gas production as this will negatively impact all species living on planet Earth. An alternative to this gas project is to focus on developing renewable sources of energy.

Loss of Native Fauna

This project necessitates significant areas of natural woodland to be cleared. Therefore koalas, pygmy possums and other species will be endangered. The natural woodland is essential for their survival, particularly the koala, which is heading towards extinction in this and other areas in NSW. As keen birdwatchers, we are also very concerned about the potential impact on two threatened bird species (regent honeyeater & swift parrot).

Contamination of our most precious resource

Local communities rely on water from the Great Artesian Basin aquifer for stock, domestic and irrigation purposes. There is a very high likelihood this water and the Great Artesian Basin aquifer will be polluted with water from the coal seams (containing heavy metals) during or after extraction of gas. This will be a disaster as once heavy metals enter the water cycle they can easily be absorbed by, and will persist in plants, animals and humans for decades.

Ancient Indigenous sites

We are extremely concerned the recent debacle in Western Australia when Rio Tinto destroyed a 46,000 year old Indigenous site could easily happen if this project is approved. Many cultural sites such as rock shelters, burials and historic camps were identified in Santos' cultural heritage assessment of the project area. Detailed surveys have not been carried out, but are proposed to be done by Santos after approval. This is totally unacceptable. To avoid repeating the mistakes happening in Western Australia, it is imperative to conduct the detailed surveys and seek public comment and agreement before approval of the project.

In conclusion, the project does not fill us with confidence that Santos and the NSW Government will protect the environment for the sake of our children and their children.

The Independent Planning Commission must reject this project to:

- Prevent any further increase in GHG emissions
- Protect the remaining flora and fauna
- Maintain the current water quality in the Pilliga and surrounding area
- Protect ancient Indigenous sites

We look forward to the Independent Planning Commission putting a stop to this project.