August 8th 2020

Dear Independent Planning Commission,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the proposed Narrabri Coal Seam Gas project.
My name is Amy Ashman and I am a resident of Armidale, NSW, where I have lived for the last 4 years. I am a dietitian, parent, and active member of local environmental group Climate Action Armidale. I am strongly opposed to the Narrabri gas project on the grounds that the purported benefits do not outweigh the environmental and social consequences should this project go ahead.
It is my understanding that there is currently no disposal plan for the thousands of tonnes of heavy metal-laced salt that this project will produce and that the effects of industrializing 95,000 hectares and clearing 1,000 hectares of woodland will threaten the habitat and survival of critically endangered species that reside in these woodlands, including one of the most important koala populations in NSW. As a parent of a young child I am also very concerned about the greenhouse gas emissions this project will produce. We have been advised by the most eminent scientists in the field of climate science that we must halve our projected emissions by 2030 or face climate catastrophe. It is therefore the responsibility of every one of us to reduce emissions as a matter of urgency, yet estimates suggest that this one gas field would increase Australia’s emissions by 1% per year. I have a young child who deserves to grow up in a world not racked by climate chaos, and I cannot help but think that greenlighting this project would be a morally reprehensible decision.
It seems completely illogical for a state with so much sun and wind to be investing in polluting gas instead of transitioning to a renewable energy economy, especially given recent reports that suggest doing so would create thousands of new jobs.
I implore you to please consider the future of our children at the centre of your decision.

Yours faithfully,
Dr Amy Ashman