In June of 2009 the community Conservation Agreement, prepared by the Community Conservation Council was signed in Accordance with the Brigalow and Nandewar Community Conservation Area Act 2005. Under this agreement lands in these conservation areas are zoned 1 to 4. Zone One being National Parks for 100% conservation, and Zone Four at the other end where the lands are put aside for forestry, recreation and minerals extraction. In implementing the land management practices of the new agreement most of the last remaining timber mills associate with the Pilliga forest were shut down ( loss of jobs, an industry shut down), with only the northern portion of the Pilliga able to be logged. It is also that northern portion where minerals extraction is allowed. It is in this area that the proponent, now Santos, has sought approval to extract coal seam gas, the very natural resource that was put aside some 11 years ago by the NSW Government.

It is now pleasing to see that the