

## IPC submission objecting the proposed Narrabri Gas Project

I write this submission of objection, as the fourth generation on our family farm, an environmental consultant, and a young person whose life will be affected by the decisions we make today. It is myself, my siblings, and the generations to come that will see the ramifications and consequences for poor decision making, of which the Narrabri Gas field is one of them.

Why is it a poor decision?

- Gas is a major contributor to climate change. The construction of the gas fields would add a significant amount of methane and CO<sub>2</sub> to Australia's emissions. If NSW is serious about meeting an emission reduction target of 35% by 2030 and net zero by 2050 then approving a new fossil fuel project puts you as not the sharpest tool in the shed.
- Australia's electricity sector is the nation's biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions. The opportunity to change this is now, with renewable energy such as solar and wind now the cheapest source of energy. We have the technology and infrastructure available to produce energy in a way that doesn't result in greater emissions. Take the Hornsdale Tesla Battery, Snowy Hydro 2.0 and Narrabri Solar Farm as an example.
- Threatens Australia's biggest natural asset – the Great Artesian Basin (GAB). The GAB is the lifeblood of rural Australia, with about one third of NSW relying on the GAB as a source of water. Without this source of water, many businesses would not have survived the most recent drought, particularly farmers.
- The project will have an unacceptable impact on biodiversity in the eastern Pilliga, including species that are threatened with extinction at the state and Federal level. The construction of the gas fields would also result in destruction to culturally significant land of the Gomeroi/Gamilaraay people.
- Does not adhere to the concept of intergenerational equity: "That the present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment are maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations."
- Approving this project is not just a 'gas field' but all the ancillary infrastructure that goes with it. One such component is the high pressure Western Slopes Pipeline, which APA plan to construct through the vertisol soils and endangered grasslands of my families property on the Macquarie River flood plain north of Warren.

This list is merely a drop on the ocean to the myriad of negatives that this project brings.

We can listen to the experts during the COVID-19 crisis, lets listen to the experts on climate change – the scientists who say that the world has to halve emissions by 2030 and reach net zero emissions by 2040 to stay within a 2 degree warming limit. Australia's energy sector, as our largest contributor to emissions must carry the greatest share of this reduction. The technology exists, the projects have been constructed to prove it. In a pandemic the 'science' has become the source of truth, the 'science' in this instance is too the source of truth, and a truth that should not be ignored!

Let's not make the same mistakes of the past, instead think of the future generations whose lives are truly affected by the decisions of today. It is clear the community does not want this project...no clearer than over 23,000 objections (the most in Australian history to an EIS).

Please reject this proposal and make a good decision for future generations.

Sincerely,

Anna Mildner