I urge you the independent planning commission to object to the Narrabri Gas Project.

I watched the verbal submissions and my heart filled with sadness at the clear suffering of the people who has fought this gasfield for a decade. Sadly the stories I heard were not really all that unfamiliar as 6 years ago I visited the gasfields of Queensland. There I met farmers who had been bullied into signing contracts they didn’t understand, cattle farmers whose calves post gasfield were born unable to suckle, happening to more and more calves as the years passed. I met families seeking a country life who had moved to the region to have gasfield infrastructure encroach on their peaceful lives and as a direct consequence of this infrastructure were suddenly unable to drink their rainwater. I met farmers and saw unusable methane contaminated bores that ran with perfectly clean water before the gas industry came to town. I drove through towns that were once lively country towns now sprawling with flashy yet empty homes, empty shops lined the main streets. I saw lots of trucks, white ones driving everywhere, in paddocks, on streets and roads.

Please don’t think that the fate that awaits Narrabri and neighbouring towns will be any different to what I witnessed in the gasfields of Queensland if this project is approved. You will be resigning the people of the North West to the same fate.

I heard a smattering of locals make their submissions in support of the project saying that the project should go ahead because of the local jobs. The jobs are not long term. Jobs is an absolute furphy in this instance that has already been made clear.

The Pilliga forest ought to be protected, not busted up to make way for yet another fossil fuel project in 2020 when we understand the need to do all we can to avoid catastrophic climate change.

The fact that an intact forest could be fragmented, and habitat destroyed for a 20-year gasfield is clear evidence of how much value we put on the natural world. Gut wrenching that humans feel we are more important than any other living thing, that the last remaining intact forest of its kind should not be protected and should not be valued more than the gas that lies beneath it.

What is the worst possible outcome if the project is approved? Compare the to the worst possible outcome is the project is not approved. I implore you to object the Narrabri coal seam gas project.

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