Submission to IPC re Narrabri gas project

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I OBJECT to this proposed project

Reasons

The proposed project would have unacceptable climate change and other environmental consequences for the region and Australia.

Climate Change

If it proceeds, the Narrabri gas project would produce up to 5 million tonnes of greenhouse gases per year. There is also inevitable ongoing leakage of methane from the proposed 850 coal seam gas wells, the piping and transport of the methane as well as leakage from the ground in the vicinity of the wells. Recent research found emissions from increased use of fossil methane is between 25 to 40% greater than previously estimated. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas and when it escapes to the atmosphere adds significantly to the ongoing heating of our planet.

NSW has set an objective to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. The Narrabri gas project with its proposed 25 year lifespan would consume 11% of NSW’s carbon budget and be incompatible with achieving the State’s decarbonisation objective.

It is clear that no new fossil fuel extraction projects, including new coal seam gas projects, can be acceptable if we are to pass on a livable world to our children and grandchildren.

Environmental impacts

The Narrabri gas project would result in the patchwork clearing about 1000 hectares of native woodland. This would threaten the survival of 35 already endangered and threatened species such as koala and pygmy possum.

The disposal of over 800 000 tonnes of salt waste and over 700 000 cubic meters coal-based drill cuttings is very concerning, as I understand that the proponent has not as yet advised what concrete plans it has prepared to manage this magnitude of waste.

It is also of great concern that the effect of the proponent removing 37.5 billion litres of water from the southern recharge zone of the Great Artesian Basin is basically unknown.

Summary

For all of the above reasons it is clear that the Narrabri gas project should not proceed.