



29 June 2020

Independent Planning Commission
Panel for the Narrabri Gas Project
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Submission objecting to the Narrabri Gas Project

Please do not publish my name and suburb

Dear Commissioners

More and more people are becoming informed about the serious impacts of coal seam gas mining and more and more people are saying 'No' to this industry. As a very concerned citizen and taxpayer I am asking you to reject the Narrabri Gas Project. The economics are unrealistic and the comprehensive review by the NSW Chief Scientist stated that the correct protections were not in place to escape the unavoidable environmental and health consequences of the industry. I am angry and afraid of what the future holds for the next generation of young people when I see the relentless push for more fossil fuel investment and the degradation of forests, agricultural land and our water reserves.

I am asking you, the Commissioners, to reject the Narrabri Gas Project. And here are my reasons:

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Gas extraction and its associated methane emissions make it more harmful than coal burning emissions
- Threat of contamination of the Great Artesian Basin
- The production of excessive amounts of salt and no plans for disposal
- BTEX chemicals contaminating ground and surface water relied on for humans and stock
- Regulation of the industry is inadequate

SOCIAL

- *The serious health impacts of living near coal seam gas wells are well known and include chronic and acute health issues; long term stress from this project looming over them for years.
- *Farmers unable to insure either their livestock or properties because of contamination and CSG in the area
- *Food security under threat if crops or stock become contaminated from CSG in the land around wells.
- *Social cohesion disrupted by population increase during construction phase and pressure on housing.

ECONOMIC

- Extremely low tax and royalty revenue for the citizens of NSW and Australia
- Taxpayer funded monitoring of wells and huge exploration subsidies also paid by taxpayers
- Loss of productive agricultural land and associated job losses in agriculture and associated industries
- Domestic gas prices will not go down due to need to fulfill export contracts. Much has been written about this
- Stranded assets as world moves towards renewables and world abandons gas
- Uninsurable properties and uninsurable livelihoods

Commissioners, there are whole countries and many states around the world that have banned Coal Seam Gas as awareness has grown about how treacherous a commodity it is and how it contributes to global catastrophe. The best solution to the domestic gas shortage is to implement a gas reservation policy, which should have been put in place much earlier as Western Australia has done. A responsible strategic reserve of gas for Australian Industry is imperative. Investment in renewable energy is booming around the world and a planned transition to renewables is what is needed.

I understand that you will down weight my submission as I do not live in the area affected but I ask you to give all submissions due consideration. Broader society is taking a stronger position on these issues and they are important for all of us in the states and in Australia as a whole.

When making your decision I ask you to use the precautionary principle and common sense to reject this project.

Yours sincerely

