

**From:** [Kate Tuohy-Main](#)  
**To:** [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** Submission objecting to the Narrabri Gas Project  
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Office of the Independent Planning Commission NSW  
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth St, Sydney, NSW 2000  
P: (02) 9383 2100 E: [ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Independent Planning Commission,

This is a submission objecting to the Narrabri Gas Project.

I am Kathleen Tuohy-Main, a physiotherapist for 52 years. I keep fit so I am ready to go backpacking in the Australian wilderness when any opportunity arises. One of the many places I have walked is in the Pilliga so I am writing to you from my viewpoint as to why the Narrabri Gas project should not go ahead

If all the politicians, mining magnates and non environmentally aware people could be transported away from their present lives, desks, concrete and the rule of finance and politics, to a place above the earth, they could meditate and contemplate the wonders of planet earth.

Over the Pilliga Landscape they could have a macro view of the dawn, highlighting the Warrumbungles and the beauty of the vegetated, undulating land forms, and as the sun rises the patterns of landscape changing as the day arrives.

Then hearing the birds and animals stir, becoming aware of the eco systems special to every area on earth and the interdependency of plants, animals and humans and their variable and fragile adaptability to the elements of sun, wind, rain, being further tested by Climate Change.

Then below the Earth's crust there is the ancient storage of minerals, gas and water, with water being the most precious of these commodities. Without water life can not exist. The Pilliga Forrest is a critical recharge area for the Great Artesian Basin,

which supports life accross inland Australia. CSG drilling is not worth the risk to this precious underground water system. Not enough is known about the Pilliga Sandstone as a recharge aquifer to be putting it at risk.

In the multilayered complexity of the Planet Earth, the gasses, oil and minerals on which these people are fixated, loom large and obliterate the vital importance and preciousness of the timeless balance of the natural environment above and below the earth's surface, cared for in balance by the aboriginal people for centuries.

CSG drilling damages ancient rock formations and can redirect precious surface water underground, while polluting and poisoning the Artesian Basin water and surrounding land, so plants die and do not revegitate.

Abotiginal Country and farmland can be ruined and water sources have already dried up in some areas following the CSG exploration.

All the grid road networks put in place for the exploratory work shows Santos has no understanding of the Gamilaraay people's responsibility as protectors of their Country and Santos is planning to perform a detailed cultural heritage survey only after gaining approval for the Narrabri Gas Project.

The Web of politics, finance, technology, lack of acknowledging science, fanned by greed and remoteness from the natural world, has led to a fixation to access coal, gas and oil , knowing the process can polute the artesian water below and also destroy above ground habitats and ecosystems. This has been shown by the damage done by over twenty leaks and spills of toxic CSG water causing forest die back that has not regenerated seven years later. It is just too risky a project to be allowed to go ahead with the potential for 130 more spills predicted.

With 35 fauna and 10 flora threatened species already identified in the project area and with 95,000 hectares proposed to be industrialised, including the clearing of 1,000 hectares of forest, habitat loss and ecosystem destruction is inevitable, with the resulting invasion of pest species of plants and animals. The Pilliga mouse, one of the threatened species, has had no baseline research population surveys performed so if the CSG project is approved, the distraction that could follow would most likely breach the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

As the Santos Assessment Report fails to demonstrate that knowledge and understanding of the current status of all thirty five threatened fauna species has been established and with no management plan for them in place, the project should not go ahead.

Add to this lack of knowledge of the Pilliga ecosystems, the issue of bushfires. Habitat distraction from bushfires will only be compounded by adding a gas field making it even more flammable, particularly with out of control wild fires happening now, due to Climate change. This is a vicious circle as Climate Change is being made worse by the extraction and burning of gas.

With Solar and Wind energy solutions developing and its cost reducing, they are displacing the need for Gas fired electricity.

It's not just me and a few other people who don't want this project to go ahead.

In the Pilliga, even after years of negotiations, no Indigenous Land Use agreements have been signed to give permission for the project to go ahead, and 97% of landowners surrounding the Pilliga have demonstrated their objections through ongoing community surveys.

Due to the reasons I have outlined here I would like to stand

with the people of the Pilliga and strongly object to the Narrabri Gas Project going ahead.

Thank you for having this opportunity to comment on this vitally important issue.

I would appreciate hearing from you in regards to my submission.

Yours sincerely

Kathleen Tuohy-Main

Merewether, 2291 NSW

M: 0403048772 E: [katetuohymain@gmail.com](mailto:katetuohymain@gmail.com)