

Vanessa Hickey

My name is Vanessa Hickey, I reside at [REDACTED]  
My tribe Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi/Gomaroi are first nations people's whose lands extend from northwest of New South Wales to southern Queensland. We form one of the four largest nations in Australia. The Kamilaroi are the second largest nation on the eastern coast of Australia, with Wiradjuri being the largest. Their nation covers 30,000 square miles of fertile soil, running rivers and streams, just like we had on our once upon a time beautiful countryside.

Totems play an important role in First Nations peoples identity within the Kamilaroi nation. At birth, each child is associated with a totem which remains with them for life. ... Totems can be identified as either an animal, a component of a natural landscape, a plant or even a weather pattern, we are connected in so many ways.

I am opposed to the destruction of our sacred places for the construction of the Narrabri Gas Project. This project will have huge negative impacts upon lands, waterway and totems, which I am connected to through my Matriarchal bloodlines. These sites are spiritual value and of high cultural value and cannot be replaced or restored. I and my people who I'm speaking for today ask that you grant approval to the immediate protection of our sacred places and seek future permanent protection in the future.

For thirty years I have witnessed, no input nor consent from the rightful bloodline peoples of the Nations, I lived, I seen the destructions of our land and waterway here and across Australia, 2 beautiful flowing rivers Namoi and Barwon disappear, BONE DRY, land clearing at its worst country so dry and dead, our scarred sites needs protecting; we have protected these sites for thousands of years, once you blow them up you are blowing the true history of Australia up! WHY?? Instead of supporting companies that are destroying country, support us in preserving culture and heritage. There are other ways to support the economic and this is not one of them. I see dams stretching for miles and miles full of water while river's are bone dry. Are these dams for the people? I see mountains and beautiful lushy landscape turn into dirty big black holes, and no-one is listening to the peoples who have lived here for many

many years. This madness must stop here, but now they want to put 850 gas wells in the Pilliga which comes along with waste water ponds and I must ask what will happen to all the salts/brine?? We must also protect the G.A.B., the last water source I know of that helped the northwest peoples get water when we were in drought, this water shouldn't be used for mining or gas, this water helps our farmers feed the world, and keeps communities going, what would we happen if this underground water is poisoned? Please listen to the people who have lived on lands, we see the changes out here! digging, drilling, removing, diverting rivers and sucking rivers dry, they sucking the life out of mother earth, these companies **YOU ARE KILLING OUR WAY OF LIVING.** We are river people, we live off land and rivers, our food source, the fish kill, this project will destroy our way of living if this gets approved.

Regards, Vanessa Hickey