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July 14, 2020

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NARRABRI GAS PROJECT -OBJECTION:

Office of the Independent Planning Commission NSW
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

We wish to object to the Narrabri Gas Project, on the following grounds –

- . The Artesian Basis should be protected from any risks of contamination/subsidence/failure of access/depletion - at all costs – for present day and future generations.
- . We have been, as all of the Walgett/Coonamble districts have - through recent devastating droughts.
Our Namoi and Barwon rivers were completely dry. Fish were dead.
This is a fact – as reported widely in all news outlets.
The Namoi River – we pump water from - for Stock and Domestic was completely dry for nearly each of the years of 2018 and 2019. Not able to pump !
- . Without the Artesian Basin Water we could not have existed –we would have needed to buy in and cart water for both ourselves and our stock for these same years – 2018/2019. Perhaps without funding we may have been forced to leave the property.
- . In the US – areas of small settlement - where gas pipelines have traversed, underneath settlements - have been abandoned - due to gas leaking into underground water
- children were coming down with debilitating diseases – bleeding from the ears and asthma conditions, that cleared up when families left these said areas.

Please do not repeat the above mistakes in and around the
Narrabri/Walgett/Coonamble areas.

We need to learn from mistakes made in other countries or other areas of Australia.

- . The Artesian Water is not an infinite resource.

The Artesian Water should not be drawn on for irrigation or mining, whether this is for coal or gas, for the above reasons.

Santos plan shows their gas pipeline running diagonally through one of our wheat paddocks, at our "Gunyillah", Coonamble property.
Santos proposes to run a pipeline, claiming 30metres in this proposed diagonal line through the centre of one of our current cropping paddocks.

Santos do not propose to spray weeds out of this 30m proposed area.

This will affect our viability/productivity, i.e. it will increase our costs for chemicals to spray our paddock, that will surround their pipeline. Weeds left in Santos pipeline strip will spread through the rest of this paddock and then onto the rest of the property in general, causing additional spraying costs.

How does Santos propose that we farm either side of their proposed pipeline, i.e. will we need to take our farming equipment around this pipeline – so that the weight of our tractor and sowing rig do not cross the proposed pipeline?

What about the risk of fire, particularly with a ripening crop or at crop harvest?

Also, the proposed Santos gas pipeline to go through our paddock, as above, has to first travel through a Creek bed and through a Crown Reserve (now under Native Title Claim), prior to entering our paddock where Santos proposes to diagonally travel through this said crop paddock?

It is believed that Santos will be able to put down gas-wells within the 30mtrs of pipeline. If this is permitted on our property, their gas-wells will be within a cropping paddock, close to infrastructure, i.e. house, sheds, power and telephone lines. If a fire was to break out in their pipeline, could this cause massive destruction by spreading from crop paddock/our own property/surrounding property areas?

The Santos proposed pipeline – will travel through a Creek bed and Crown Reserve (under Native Title Claim) that is an area that can be flooded, from time to time. What could happen if Santos has a leak within this area during a flood?
Gas could flow down into the Castlereagh River and then into the Macquarie/Barwon river system, contaminating this whole river system.

Where Santos proposes to "travel" their pipeline through the Creek bed – this is our only access for both stock and farming machinery from north to south/east within our property, when this particular area is flooded. The Creek bed is deeper within the rest of the property and fills with heavy rains, preventing all access.
Santos cannot restrict our movement of stock and/or farming machinery.

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Our "Gunyillah" Coonamble property is Freehold. Why is it possible for Santos to operate so irresponsibly in respect to a Crown Reserve under Native Title Claim and also in respect to our Freehold country?

A few years back a dirt airstrip existed within this same area that Santos proposes to pipe. The smaller Air Ambulance out of Bourke had used a limited dry length of this same airstrip, in flood, to land to pick up patients, when the surrounding area had been flooded and neighbour's airstrips were under water. A situation like this could arise in the future. Bringing this airstrip back into function could serve the community into the future.

We believe that the Santos proposal is very short sighted, looking to a short term gain as against the long - term viability/value of the Artesian Basin, River Systems and farming areas/communities of the Narrabri/Walgett/Coonamble and other areas affected by this proposal.

The NSW Government is being totally irresponsible in ignoring Scientific research and claims against this proposal as well as treating landholders/voters within this proposed Gas-well/pipeline area with contempt.

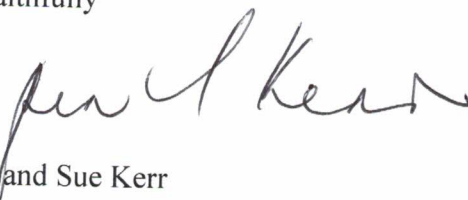
Our western areas have supported the NSW Coalition for perhaps a quarter of a century, until the last election. With one of the largest "land areas" in the State, it is sad that our smaller population is discounted .

Can the Government not recall the Voters message that these areas delivered in the last State Election?

Who in this current Government will accept responsibility for all the risks that are involved?

We hope that commonsense can prevail and that this project will not be given permission to go ahead.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew and Sue Kerr', written in a cursive style.

Andrew and Sue Kerr