

Office of the Independent Planning Commission NSW
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street, Sydney, NSW 2000
ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au

Dear Independent Planning Commission,

This is a submission objecting to the Narrabri Gas Project.

In September 2018 I visited the Pilliga forest and walked with Gamilaraay elders through part of the lands that will be destroyed if the proposed coal seam gas development goes ahead. We stopped for a rest at a high point overlooking the proposed drilling area. For as far as I could see the only mark of development was the CSIRO observatory in the far distance. The elders spoke of the immense importance of the place to them. This is how the Pilliga forest should remain.

I am deeply concerned by the rapidly growing impact of climate change and the loss of biodiversity. Unless we make difficult decisions as a community our future is bleak. The summer of 2019, 2020 was deeply troubling to me, my family and friends. The scientific consensus expressed through the IPCC is that to limit climate change we must leave fossil fuels in the ground. The Narrabri gas project will increase carbon emissions in Australia by almost 1%. You would know better than I the scale of fossil fuel projects being proposed for New South Wales. Supporters of fossil fuel developments claim that they are necessary for both energy production and employment. This is not correct, there are better choices available to us. A study by Ernst & Young, reported in the Guardian Australia on 7 June 2020, says a government focus on renewable energy and climate-friendly projects to drive the economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic could create more than 100,000 direct jobs across the country while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

My key objection to the Narrabri gas project is the contribution it will make to the climate emergency. This objection is multiplied by the specific facts of this project:

- The Pilliga forest is a recharge area for the Great Artesian Basin which supports life across eastern Australia. No level of risk to this water is acceptable.
- There are forty-five threatened animal and plant species within the protected area which will be broken up by the pattern of CSG wells. Australia has lost too many species since colonisation.
- The Rural Fire Service has stated serious concerns about fire danger with the operation of a gas field in a landscape like the Pilliga.

Due to the above reasons I strongly object to the Narrabri Gas Project. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I look forward to hearing from you about this submission.

Yours sincerely,

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