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Subject: Narrabri CSG Submission - Objection
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> NARRABRI CSG SUBMISSION- OBJECTION

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> I am happy for my name and submission to be included on your website.

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> ENVIRONMENTAL

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> CLIMATE CHANGE

> The impacts of Climate Change on the environment, economy and society are already evident and becoming more serious as the planet warms. Global warming must be kept below 2degrees or the impacts will be catastrophic. For this reason Climate Change must be a significant factor when assessing this proposal. We know that the extraction and burning of gas contributes significantly to global warming. There are already serious concerns about the rising levels of methane gas in the atmosphere and the impact this is having on global warming. CSG extraction will make it impossible for Australia to meet its commitments under the Paris Climate Agreement.

> Because of the impacts on Climate Change, this project must not proceed especially when there are viable alternatives to CSG. Renewable energy (wind and solar) is developing faster than expected, provides a cheaper energy source, will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide regional employment.

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> BIODIVERSITY

> Pilliga is the largest remaining temperate woodland wilderness in NSW. Drilling 850 CSG wells and creating a network of roads and pipelines will have significant irreversible impacts on this valuable ecosystem.

> 35 threatened animals and 10 threatened plants have been identified within the project area and yet the studies on the impacts on this fauna and flora is inadequate.

> The proposal to clear nearly 1000 ha and industrialize an area of 95000ha will cause serious fragmentation of this habitat, making the survival of many species difficult if not impossible.

> The long term impacts on fauna and flora has not been properly assessed. For example, there has been no baseline population surveys for the Pilliga Mouse which relies on this area for survival. It will be severely impacted by destruction and fragmentation of habitat. Approval of this project is therefore likely to breach the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

> The situation is similar for animals such as the Squirrel Glider and the Black-striped Wallaby and birds such as the Glossy Black Cockatoo, the Diamond Firetail and the critically endangered Swift Parrot. If these birds and animals are to survive their last remaining habitats must be protected.

> Koalas could be extinct in NSW by 2050. This would be a huge tragedy and an unacceptable scenario when we still have an opportunity to preserve the species. In the recent summer fires much of the koala habitat was burnt and koala populations greatly reduced. Koalas in the Pilliga would be seriously impacted through habitat fragmentation and industrialization. Instead, we should be planning for the Pilliga to become a koala security zone preserving the species and ensuring genetic diversity.

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> WATER

> Australia is a dry continent and water is precious. CSG extraction has a significant impact on groundwater supplies and quality. Water is of vital importance to the surrounding farmers and townspeople. Their very livelihood is threatened by this project.

> There is also a wider, Australian impact as the Pilliga Forest is a critical recharge area for the Great Artesian Basin.

> It is not acceptable that Santos has used a basic groundwater model. For over 20 years Santos will drill 850 wells and remove 1.5 gigalitres of water per year. This will result in the depressurization and loss of water in the Pilliga sandstone. The effects will be short and long term and irreversible and not acceptable.

> In association with this is the disposal of salt waste. The amount of salt waste would be considerable. It is not acceptable to approve the project and then trust Santos to prepare a strategy for the reuse and disposal of waste. The creation of salty waste is a considerable risk to our environment through leaching from landfill and contamination of groundwater, farmland and ecosystems. Santos already has a record of breaches of safety requirements through spills and leaks of toxic water from CSG some of which remain unremediated.

