

From: Jonathan Moylan
Sent: Friday, 17 July 2020 7:05 PM
To: IPCN Enquiries Mailbox
Cc: Nathaniel Pelle
Subject: URG: Questions for David Kitto wrt Narrabri Gas Project

Dear Commissioners,

Ahead of David Kitto's appearance before the Independent Planning Commission's public hearing of the Narrabri Gas Project, we are writing to express our concerns that Professor Deanna Kemp, upon whose expert advice the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment extensively relied in forming their recommendations, has since become disturbed that her desktop review of Santos' EIS documentation has been misconstrued by the Department as an endorsement of the proponent's conclusions regarding hydrogeology and social impacts. These concerns are outlined in a submission by the Sydney Environment Institute, to which Greenpeace Australia Pacific contributed.

We would strongly urge the Commission to put the following questions to David Kitto or representatives of the Department at its hearing on Monday. We would further urge the Commission to exercise its powers to call Professor Kemp as a witness to the public hearings, given that any misunderstanding of the implications of her research could give rise to an improper weighting of considerations in your determination, or an unsafe decision that could lead to a judicial review invalidating the Commission's determination.

Questions for David Kitto:

1. The Commission is aware of reports by the Sydney Environment Institute that Professor Deanna Kemp is uncomfortable with the weight given to her advice to the Department, upon which the Department heavily relied, given that the scope of her research was limited to a desktop review of the proponent's EIS and involved no primary research. Does the Department share Professor's Kemp's view that her review is of limited value in forming an assessment of the adequacy of the hydrogeological and social impacts of the project, and what primary research was undertaken to verify the proponent's assessment of those impacts?
2. Has the Department commissioned any other external expert assessment of these impacts, and if so, what did they conclude?
3. What ground-truthing has been undertaken by the Department or its external consultants or the assessment put together by the proponent?

Kind regards,
Jonathan

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Jonathan Moylan
Campaigner


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