

**From:** [Geoff Clark](#)  
**To:** [ICCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** NARRABRI GAS PROJECT INQUIRY  
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Dear Commissioners

I wish to submit the following views concerning the Narrabri Gas Project.

Santos plans to develop up to 850 coal seam gas wells across 95,000 hectares in the north eastern part of the Pilliga Forest near Narrabri, clearing 1000 hectares of forest.

North West NSW community surveys show that 96% of people wish to remain gasfield free.

Whether the government likes it or not, the private sector, with strong community support, is steadily transitioning to a more sustainable long term energy system given the now widely recognised Climate Change crisis. The Australian and State Governments need to provide better leadership in assisting that transition in the national interest rather than unduly focusing on much narrower sectoral interests. Coal Seam Gas (CSG) and CSG extraction are major contributors to the critical adverse effects on our planet of Greenhouse gases. Hence, it makes little sense, from a national perspective, that the Australian and NSW Governments are using taxpayers' money to support the Narrabri Gas project. There are better ways to support the local community in terms of jobs and economic activity.

The Narrabri gasfield is likely to destroy jobs in other local industries; for every job created from the project i, 1.8 jobs have been estimated to be lost in agriculture and 0.9 jobs lost in the service sector.

CSG is expensive in its use of precious ground water. In this regard, Santos will remove 37.5 billion litres of water from the Great Artesian Basin, which could have major environmental risks of lowering the water table and the volume of groundwater available to sustains regional farms and communities.

Toxic waste water and drilling fluids are known to spill and leak contaminating water and ecosystems. In the Pilliga, Santos has already been fined for contaminating an aquifer with uranium and other heavy metals and for a spill of 10,000 L of wastewater that caused a forest "dead-zone" which is still un-remediated 10 years later. The Narribri Gas Project could produce over 500,000 tonnes of toxic salty waste, for which Santos has no disposal plan as far as I'm aware.

The project would require pipelines through prime agricultural farms and Aboriginal sites, against the wishes of landholders and Traditional Owners. The area is a haven for endangered species and is sacred to the Gamilaraay people.

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All of these issues need to be assessed carefully, fully and independently assessed using the best available experts. The national interest interest should be the fundamental principle. Macroeconomic modelling, cost benefit analysis or other appropriate tool should be part of the process.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Narrabri Gas Project.

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