

I object to Coal Seam Gas mining, and specifically the Narrabri Gas Project proposed by Santos, with so many unanswered questions about safety to the Land, Water, Air and our children and grandchildren's inheritance. What contaminants are we leaving them with this project?

Minister for NSW Department of Planning Industry and Environment Rob Stokes referred the project to the State's Independent Planning Commission and recommended it be approved with what it described as strict conditions.

The Chief Scientist's independent review has already made 16 recommendations for improvements in safety, only 2 of which have been fully implemented, and just six partially.

What are the NSW Planning Department and the Federal Energy and Emissions Reduction Minister, Angus Taylor thinking, seeking approval for Santos to drill through the **crucial recharge aquifer** of the Great Artesian Basin (GAB) to get to the gas. This has never been done before but Santos has made assurances that they will take all precautions!!!

This groundwater sustains farms and communities across inland Australia, and from experience in Queensland, their Groundwater Impact Assessment has shown that 101 water bores will be affected in the next three years and 574 bores in the long-term. With Santos's proposal to drill 850 wells in the Pilliga forest and surrounding farmland, the long-term results of using a dangerous cocktail of chemicals to drill, and removing the groundwater from the coal seam, is unknown, and the potential for contamination is high.

Santos has already been fined for **contaminating an aquifer with uranium**.

Aquifer connectivity and faulting have not been properly assessed in the Pilliga. The Water Expert Panel has highlighted these concerns. A CSIRO/ GISERA assessment of the fault is due on 31/12/20.** Santos refused to reveal any knowledge of this fault line to the Water Expert Panel assessing the project. ** <https://tinyurl.com/ybqxhmg4>

Support for coal seam gas is waning, with Insurance company IAG* saying for customers who "have operational CSG or shale gas activities or infrastructure on their property, such as a coal seam gas well, we will be unable to provide [public] liability cover as part of their insurance policy". And Santos has not ruled out fracking in the future. * <https://tinyurl.com/y7bw9y1f>

We have just been through a devastating drought and bushfire season. The Pilliga Forest is prone to bushfire. The Rural Fire Services (RFS) say gas extraction and infrastructure **escalate the risk** of a fire spreading and increase the danger to firefighters. The risk of gas infrastructure igniting and further inflaming bush fires is too great for some volunteer firefighters who refuse to fight fires in gasfields. Santos has not demonstrated its claim that the cumulative risks of initiating a bushfire from wells and processing facilities is low.

It has been mooted that : Coal seam gas will create jobs in Narrabri, giving the town's economy a significant boost.

History shows that in four years, Chinchilla, a similar size town to Narrabri, went from a prosperous rural town, to a booming gas mining town, to a welfare town with high levels of unemployment, crime and drug addiction. Currently houses are being sold for less than a 1/3 of the build cost.

Santos' gasfield **poses direct and indirect threats** to existing long term sustainable industries in the area, such as agriculture, tourism and manufacturing (recently revealed)**.

** <https://www.afr.com/companies/energy/santos-narrabri-jobs-claims-under-fire-20200622-p554up>

What legacy will we leave for our children?

Farmland unable to be farmed as land and water has been contaminated by chemicals used in the extraction of CSG eg Volatile organic compounds and hydrocarbons, including the carcinogen benzene, are released from vents, holding tanks, ponds, compressors and other infrastructure.

Air no longer clean and fresh:

In 2014 the CSIRO measured emissions at 37 CSG wells in QLD and 6 in NSW. Only 3 had no fugitive emissions. Air pollution poses potential risks to workers and people living nearby. Methane, a potent greenhouse gas, adds to the serious health risks of climate change. A report* by Australian energy industry veteran Dr Andrew Grogran reveals that Santos has underestimated emissions.

* <https://tinyurl.com/y9w8bpay>

Coal Seam Gas has been touted as a transition fuel between coal and renewables, but stories published show Santos has misrepresented** the gas composition data of the Gunnedah Basin.

** <https://tinyurl.com/ybhu29cf>

Please consider the long term impact of such a detrimental industry, and refuse to allow this project, and others like it, to proceed.