

Name: Anne Lanyon

Address: 21 The Avenue, Newport, 2016

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Re:

Submission to the Planning Commission Regarding the Proposed Santos Narrabri Gas Project

Attn:

Office of the Independent Planning Commission NSW
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

I am a concerned citizen of Australia who lives in Sydney and have spent time in the Pilliga, Coonabarabran, Mt Kaputar and Delungra. This project, nominated as one of State Significance, is one of significant foolhardiness. It is shortsighted in the bigger scheme of the future of Australia and the globe.

I object to the proposed project because of the key points below.

1. The Final Parliamentary Committee Report (Feb 2020), *The implementation of the recommendations contained in the NSW Chief Scientist's Independent Review of Coal Seam Gas Activities in New South Wales* indicates that the NSW Government has not carried the recommendations out properly.

www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lcdocs/inquiries/2557/Final%20Report%20-%20Implementation%20of%20the%20recommendations%20of%20the%20NSW%20Chief%20Scientist%20on%20CSG%20activities%20-%2027%20February%202020.pdf This highlights that the interests of the health and well-being of people and the natural environment expressed by the NSW Chief Scientist are not primary in this project. It is understandable that there is such large public opposition.

2. The extent of the project across 95,000 ha including Pilliga forest, private farmland and along pipeline corridors involving up to 850 new coal seam gas wells and associated infrastructure will impact detrimentally on:

a) **Vital immediate remaining wildlife habitat as well as wider ecological connectivity:** A September 2019 report on the extinction crisis in Australia highlights the precarious state of Australia's unique flora and fauna and points out that governments at both the State and Federal level are not nearly fulfilling their responsibilities to protect biodiversity.

<https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/csp2.117> This project will further destroy the integrity of the Pilliga Forest over and above the damage that has already been done. Such damage impacts much further afield than just the Pilliga and needs to be taken into account using the best available science.

b) **Vital water above and below ground:** The removal of underground water from the Great Artesian Basin, interference with creek and river systems, pollution of aquifers, and disposal of waste issues are too great a risk for this arid land. It just does not make sense in this time of

climate crises to interfere with the water on which so much depends, for the sake of a short term fossil fuel extractive industry.

d) **Community and family life:** CSIRO research has shown that community well-being and mental health is negatively affected by the impacts of this type of project on rural communities, impacts exacerbated now by COVID-19. <https://gisera.csiro.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Social-2-Final-Report.pdf>

e) **Cultural and spiritual beliefs of the local indigenous peoples:** It is clear from the voices of the Gomeri people I have heard that they feel they have not been consulted as they should be and do not want this project. Eg www.moreechampion.com.au/story/6826751/we-cant-lose-this-fight-to-save-our-precious-great-artesian-basin/?cs=1483&fbclid=IwAR1I4I9u5NPoMhuzWmsaNWTHwqY4cmDLgHvra2CZ52RvL4G9W9yNuIAP0uQ

f) **People of diverse faith traditions:**

All of life is interconnected and interdependent. This is the view of not just science but of the major religious traditions. I am part of the Faith Ecology Network, a network of people of diverse faith traditions and none, as well as scientists, who are deeply concerned about the urgent need for the protection of ecological systems. Pope Francis, head of the Catholic Church, is supporting a global platform for all Catholic organisations to be totally sustainable and divest from fossil fuels by the end of the next decade. www.ncronline.org/news/earthbeat/vatican-office-invites-church-journey-total-sustainability-next-decade Other faith traditions are moving along this path also out of a sense of the common good. Therefore this project is seen as the opposite of the common good.

3. Coal Seam Gas is not the way to go for Energy at this time.

- a) Coal Seam gas in the USA is reported as in trouble and on the way out. A recent article reported that "Almost 250 oil and gas companies could file for bankruptcy protection by the end of next year, more than the previous five years combined, according to Rystad Energy, an analytics company. www.nytimes.com/2020/07/12/climate/oil-fracking-bankruptcy-methane-executive-pay.html?fbclid=IwAR2sKCxJ4RVK3GVzAhIDE6CvOncBs5XEuCHsptjTdJRSR2c3cCfyKpKPFy0
- b) Climate economist, Mark Diesendorf, writes this week that Australia is not making any inroads into reducing our carbon emissions. He says that urgent change in attitudes and actions in this post COVID-19 period by governments is our last chance to stabilise Earth's climate. https://johnmenadue.com/the-last-chance-to-stabilise-earths-climate/?fbclid=IwAR1m_1bEEwypBZSTBQbyJbQ4vhN_xFvdg03BTUBf1XaBH4EP3AWdnYxz3J4

On these grounds, I strongly recommend that this project be rejected.

Yours Sincerely



Anne Lanyon