

Submission to The Independent Planning Commission

From Garry Martin  
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I object to the Proposed Narrabri Gas Project.

I am fundamentally not against gas while ever we need it for industrial and domestic energy supplies. However Santos have been producing gas from this proposed project, using it for electricity production, getting paid for it and not paying any royalties. This has been happening for nearly ten years using the excuse it is exploration gas. For ten years they have told us how much gas the NGP can supply so why not turn the taps off until they get approval to go ahead with this project.

On top of this we now learn that massive subsidies for gas companies are proposed and as a tax payer would far prefer the already approved option of importing gas through Port Kembla. You probably don't need it but I have attached one page of a reference to this proposal.

Yours Sincerely  
Garry Martin.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Garry Martin', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

# Massive subsidies for gas companies and an end to all fracking bans in secret COVID recovery plan

State bans on coal seam gas development would be scrapped and the Federal Government would underwrite gas prices and massively subsidise costs and investment for gas companies, under confidential plans for a "gas-led manufacturing recovery" post-COVID-19.

## Key points:

- Leaked documents reveal a draft plan calling for massive gas subsidies and public investment
- The interim report also calls for reduced 'green and red tape' and an end to all fracking moratoriums in NSW and Victoria
- The National COVID Coordination Commission has several members with deep links to the gas industry

The draft plans, obtained by the ABC, call for the scrapping of "green and red tape" on gas development, including a relaxation of Australian standards for equipment used in gas infrastructure and a loosening of environmental regulations and approval processes.

They are set out in an interim report from the manufacturing taskforce of the National COVID Coordination Commission (NCCC).

The NCCC is a hand-picked team of business leaders and former bureaucrats set up by the Prime Minister's Office to shape the economic recovery from the virus and lockdown, and includes several members with strong links to the gas sector.

The manufacturing taskforce includes business representatives as well as union leaders from that sector.

Its draft report advocates "underwriting new [gas] supply with government balance sheets" to allow gas producers "to invest with confidence and new pipelines to be built to get the gas to markets".

The taskforce says the Government should be "taking a non-operating equity position, minority share, or underwriting position" in gas projects and "provide support, such as low-cost capital, to existing small and mid-cap market participants".

It also wants mechanisms to put a government-guaranteed floor under gas prices, so companies can borrow against that guaranteed price.

And the NCCC wants massive government spending to underwrite a network of new pipelines linking gas projects in the north-west of Western Australia to the east coast.