

Troy Deighton

From: maureensgb@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, 27 July 2020 3:18 PM
To: IPCN Enquiries Mailbox
Subject: Objection submission re Santos Narrabri Gas Project

To whom it may concern

As Conservation Officer of the Australian Plants Society NSW (Nowra Group) I wish to make a submission on the group's behalf on the Narrabri Gas Project.

Members of the Nowra group of APS have charged me with the task of writing the submission so I am willing for my/their name and submission to be included on your website.

The group object to the proposed Narrabri Gas Project and ask the Independent Planning Commission to reject this project.

As a group APS Nowra are dedicated to the preservation and conservation of Australian native plants in their habitat and that then encompasses all insects, birds and wildlife that habitat supports.

The concerns are:

1) Climate Change impacts

Scientists are warning that If there is any hope of keeping global warming below 2°C we must keep gas in the ground.

NOW is the time to take note and take ACTION.

As this proposal is set to release at least 94+ million tonnes of potent climate pollution during mining we are asking our Government to take note of this and take ACTION by stopping the proposal.

There are already existing coal and gas fields pushing the world past globally agreed temperature goals.

There is no room, or need, for more. The rapid development of battery storage technology makes renewable energy sources backed by batteries a cheaper, cleaner option than developing more gas.

New gas production is an unnecessary and dangerous step in Australia's efforts to tackle climate change.

We have recently seen some of the damage that the impacts of climate change can bring to our country. with the recent devastating bushfires that saw the destruction of huge tracts of our native bushland and all species within.

Now is the time to rethink what has been proposed, possibly all development set down for the future and this gas field is certainly one that needs to be stopped.

2) Threatened species

The project will endanger the habitat of koalas and two rare and iconic bird species - the swift parrot and the regent honeyeater as well as those native species not on any list but make up the whole that is our wonderful environment.

The swift parrot is critically endangered.

The regent honeyeater is a Threatened woodland species that has become an icon for birdwatchers in NSW and requires continuing habitat for survival.

THE KOALA -Our national icon is now Threatened each day we hear of more and more developments that are impacting on the koala so all proposals that could affect them must be stopped.

If any of our Planning Laws have meaning and put in place to ensure protection of our native plant and animal species then now is the time to utilise those laws and stop threatening the Pilliga Forest and all that it sustains.

3) Poison and deplete groundwater

It is difficult to believe that Santos will be permitted by our Government to remove 1.5 gigalitres of water per year by drilling 850 wells through the Pilliga sandstone aquifer (part of the Great Artesian Basin) and into the coal seams beneath.

This project will bring ancient, contaminated coal seam water to the surface.

4) Extracted water from the coal seams may contaminate the Great Artesian Basin aquifer. Local communities rely on this supply for water for stock, domestic and irrigation purposes.

5) No need for more gas

Almost all gas produced in eastern Australia is exported via the LNG terminals at Gladstone. The small amount of expensively produced gas from the project will have negligible impact on domestic prices or supply.

In order to actually protect Australian businesses and households from gas supply shortages, governments must help them transition from gas by promoting electrification, such as heat pumps for hot water, reverse-cycle air conditioning for space heating and induction cooktops.

For these reasons members of the Nowra group of APS NSW strongly object to the Narrabri Gas Project.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

The group looks forward to hearing from you in regards to this submission.

Yours Sincerely,

Maureen Webb (Conservation Officer
Australian Plants Society NSW (Nowra group) {2540}