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27th July 2020

To the Office of Independent Planning Commission,

Dear Commissioner

RE: Narrabri Gas Project

Please find following Moree Tourism's submission in relation to the Narrabri Gas Project.

Tourism Moree are committed to the growth of our community and in particular the tourism industry with the current value of tourism for the Moree Plains Shire being estimated at over \$65 million per year. Tourism Moree acknowledge the importance in building and strengthening our community and we pride ourselves on promoting the best of our Shire and our region - from our beautiful skies, artesian water, rich cultures, and agricultural produce.

The protection of the Great Artesian Basin and the industries and communities that rely upon it, is paramount. Some of our best Tourism products rely on agriculture and the clean, uncontaminated produce and environment. Moree has a health spa industry, and can attest to the healing waters our spa tourism industry rely upon. It is integral for Tourism that we protect our artesian waters, our health spa industry, and our unique brand.

We have concerns with the Narrabri Gas Project proceeding because of the real and present threat that this project will open the door to further gas field development in our region, including the Moree Plains Shire.

The NGP applicant SANTOS have indicated in their prehearing meeting submission to the IPC and in their Climate Report 2020, that they aim to develop 'assets' over the next 20 years in this region. This includes area in our Shire. The development of these PEL's into gas fields could have a detrimental effect on many industries in our community including Tourism.

The project requires a pipeline to service it and the Queensland Hunter Gas Pipeline has indicated they will be able to do so. This pipeline is proposed to run through our Shire. We have concerns about the pipeline and how that will impact the movement of tours and tourists through our Shire.

If the Narrabri Gas Project goes ahead as per the Department of Planning's approval, there is a risk that the light produced by the project through gas flares could affect not only the dark skies of The Warrumbungle's around Coonabarabran and Narrabri, but also our own dark skies around Moree.

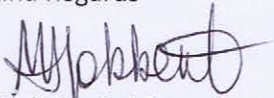
The amazing visions of the Milky Way and constellations unique to the Southern Hemisphere are part of the attraction our town and the region has to both International Tourists and Tourists from Metropolitan centres, and add to the reasons for tourists to visit Moree, Narrabri and Coonabarabran.

These tourists commute via the Newell Highway, which is a major highway that travellers use to commute to Moree. Increased local traffic created by the project could include slow moving and heavy vehicles, some with dangerous content loads, and the possible increased fire risk in the Pilliga all year round due to flaring, may have an effect on tourists decisions to travel through the Pilliga State Forrest and onto the Moree Plains Shire.

We request that you recommend the Narrabri Gas Project (and in fact, any coal seam gas industry in NSW) does not proceed as per the current approval by the Department of Planning, until all of the Chief Scientist's Recommendations are implemented in their entirety.

We thank you for your time on a project that could have many long term effect for Tourism in the Moree region.

Kind Regards



Michelle Gobbert

Chairperson

For and on behalf of

Tourism Moree Inc