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To: [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: My objection to the Narrabri Gas Project
Date: Sunday, 2 August 2020 9:17:47 AM

Dear Commissioners.

I am wishing to make a WRITTEN submission on the Narrabri Gas Project. I had the opportunity to make this verbally yesterday Sat 1st August but would like this also to be written down. I tried to find the submission portal on the IPC website but could not, despite understanding it should be available until the 10th August.

I am happy for my name and submission to be included on your website.

You have now heard from many experts on how, across many sectors - environment, biodiversity, economics etc - this project is either unviable, unsustainable or just plain destructive.

I am no expert but I wish to present to you today my solid belief why from a “human” perspective this project MUST be rejected:

I am a proud father of 3 & grandfather to a lovely 2 year old who in 5 months will be joined by a sibling. I am reservedly happy about this – but also very fearful for them and the future that they will inherit.

I am 65 years old. For 2 and a half decades of my life my focus was on my kids – providing the best education and a solid and secure grounding from which they could then forge ahead a decent future for themselves. About 4 years ago I kicked back feeling content that I had done my best and had been successful in this goal: so I moved to the Blue Mountains for a simpler life - my 2 eldest are successful and have a clear trajectory, my 25 year old is still a student finding her feet in the wider world. In these past 4 years I have become more active in my reading about, and protesting for, the protection of our environment.

On an almost daily basis I read something that just has me shaking my head wondering how we could have ended up with such a broken society and leaders who are so short-sighted. I frequently have an image in my head of lemmings heading towards a cliff.... with our politicians leading the charge promising us silent followers that their vision is the best way to a healthy future. I, and fortunately a growing number of people from all walks of life, see the massive kasm of destruction at the bottom of that cliff.

I wish to mention here one aspect of this project that absolutely defies logic: a proposed 850 gas wells in an area that is dominated by forest. Gas wells have flame associated with them – often large plumes. Is there a fire risk associated with this? Most definitely – all it might take to ignite a fire during fire season is a single wind-born leaf carried through that flame and onto the ground. This is what the term “spot-fire” relates to. I highlight this as my summer was a catastrophic one. Living on the edge of the National Park in Wentworth Falls in the Blue Mountains we were caught between an advancing fire from the North and an advancing fire from the south. For 3 full weeks our life was on-hold. If we were not inside sheltering from the smoke, we were outside checking our pumps, our hoses, rehearsing our fire plan, checking our many mobile apps and our ABC for the most current updates. Day in day out - waking up in the morning unsure of what each day would bring, and going to bed exhausted from the trauma. It wasn't a question of “if” , it was a question of “when”. Fortunately the closest it came was 1200 metres, on the ridge across our gully.

Thanks to an accelerated rate of climate change - in a big part due to our ongoing burning of fossil fuels – we now need to start preparations for our 20/21 fire season - and the angst that will go with this.

So for me the idea of willingly bringing into a forest a potential fire-starter is not only illogical, it is immoral. So all of this has led me to become more and more anguished about the future and fearful for my grandchildren. I particularly have difficulty accepting that - despite me doing my best to provide a safe and secure future for my kids - successive Prime Ministers and Ministers have not backed me up on this: e.g How can a gas-lead recovery be good for my kids – how can a destructive fossil fuel industry and it's resultant emissions be consistent with the concept of recovery?

Finally, I just wish to say something about water :

Water is our lifeblood. It sustains the individual and nurtures communities.... Healthy and abundant supplies ensure a healthy and cohesive society.....

ANY action that endangers this resource should be considered criminal as this resource belongs to everyone. Time and time again we see how greed and mismanagement of water fractures communities . Decisions on water use must always be based around the greatest benefit to the most people.

In closing, Jared Diamond in his book “Collapse” documents prior human societies that became extinct due to a lack of forward thinking on how they used their natural resources. So my plea to you today is a human one

we MUST be intelligent enough as a species to safeguard our societies survival. The IPC must choose our societal well-being over a stop-gap economical one.

Your rejection of this project will hopefully encourage our government to lead Australia on a new path away from fossil fuels. Your decision to disallow this project will help show them that the unethical and illogical approach they are taking needs a major rethink

Thank you

Rick Madigan