

41/74 Brown Street
Paddington NSW 2021
3 August 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

I am grateful for the opportunity of making this submission as you consider your response to the Santos proposal to expand coal seam gas extraction in NSW.

I am a 76 year-old woman with a commitment to the reduction of CO₂ in the atmosphere in order to prevent serious climate change effects and damage. We are running out of time to achieve this. I also do not wish to see productive farming areas destroyed by companies with no more than a profit motive, but no care for the environment and no permanent interest in its longevity.

My objections are numerous:

- 1) the proposal is the most contentious in NSW planning law. 98% of 22.721 submissions to the Environmental Impact Statement were objections. Local submissions were numerous.
- 2) In 2014, NSW Chief Scientist made 16 recommendations to guard against risk of coal seam gas, but ONLY 2 have been fully implemented and 50% have not been implemented at all. Six years ago!
- 3) Too many mining operations in this country have left remediation of sites to taxpayers. Landholders that rely on the GAB, the Gunnedah Oxley Basin and other groundwater in the area are strongly opposed to the project. They are best equipped to evaluate this proposal
- 4) Coal seam gas has brought upheaval and dislocation to rural communities. A CSIRO study in 2014 found that only 6% of local people living in Queensland gas field areas thought the industry has improved their lives, while 42% said they were "not coping" or "only just coping". Narrabri and Pilliga residents do not need any more adverse events this year.
- 5) Santos' own assessment found that impacts (adverse) on housing affordability for Narrabri residents were "almost certain" – most likely to affect low income and indigenous people.
- 6) Australia has an adequate supply of gas. The real issue is that too much of it is being exported, leaving a shortage for local consumption. There is no justification for ruining the lives and local landscape for this form of greed, regardless of environmental degradation.
- 7) Total greenhouse emissions could be 127.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, or 5 million tonnes a year. Australia is battling to meet its very modest Paris Climate Agreement targets as it is. Why would it be good policy to add, unnecessarily to emissions in this way?
- 8) I was brought up in Gilgandra and lived there for many years. I know many country people. Australian landholders and others have already had a momentarily adverse few years, with drought, bushfires and now Covid-19, throwing into disarray their lives and livelihoods.

- 9) They have earned the right not to have their land and water degraded for a product that is not needed, by an organisation that has shown little interest in preserving the area for future generations, and that will dig up and destroy their land, and then depart, if experience is any guide.

I request your compassionate and scientific consideration of this proposal. Please keep our land intact and undamaged.

Janet Simpson