

Office of the Independent Planning Commission NSW

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to OBJECT TO THE NARRABRI GAS PROJECT.

I lived in Gunnedah during the 1980's and my daughter was born there, so I am very familiar with the North Western slopes of NSW. The area around Narrabri including the Pilliga was a place we really enjoyed visiting, a place of great natural beauty, so I am devastated at the proposal of Santos' 850-well coal seam gas project in the Pilliga.

The suggestion by Santos and the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment that there is no risk of irreversible harm to the environment therefore the Precautionary Principle doesn't apply, I find extremely hard to accept when there is a huge RISK for very serious and irreversible harm.

The harms most easily identified are to:

- the Great Artesian Basin, on which our food security depends
- the beautiful temperate woodland with its extensive flora and fauna, including many threatened species
- the Indigenous cultural sites
- the night sky

But now another very alarming potential harm has emerged from recent research out of the USA concerning the link between Gas flaring and preterm births.

“Researchers from the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and the University of Southern California have found that a high level of exposure to oil and gas "flaring" events — the burning off of excess natural gas at production sites — is associated with a 50% higher risk for preterm birth.” <https://www.uclahealth.org/natural-gas-flaring-poses-pregnancy-risks>

Births occurring before 37 weeks of gestation, are preterm, which means the baby's incomplete development raises the chance of numerous disorders, even death.

The argument that there is a shortage of gas in NSW prompting the need for more gas wells is false. Surely it is plainly obvious that greed is the motivation driving this proposal by Santos.

The arguments against the project far outweigh any perceived benefits, so with all the above mentioned objections, I implore you to prevent this project from progressing.

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my concerns in this matter.

Lyndall Caillat-Shearman

August 6, 2020