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Subject: Submission Narrabri Gas Project - Objection
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Submission Narrabri Gas Project - Objection

My name is Felicity Grover. I live within the Blue Mountains National Park. Object to the Narrabri Gas Project because I appreciate our fragile environment and heritage, and do not want to see any more destruction of these in the name of dangerous fossil fuel extraction. The government should NOT approve dirty destructive projects like this that will have profound deleterious effects on the future of this country and elsewhere.

My specific reasons for the objection are:

Waste: The government report on this project noted that it will produce up to 840,000 tonnes of toxic waste and, despite the fact that Santos has provided no disposal solution, they do not see this as a reason to reject it. The high amount of precious water that would be used and released untreated should be enough on its own to reject this proposal. The country needs clean water, not toxic waste water. Concerns of groundwater contamination remain unaddressed. This is outrageous.

Chief Scientist recommendations: 14 of the 16 recommendations made by the Chief Scientist to manage the industry's health and environment risks have not been implemented despite the government's 2015 commitment to implement them.

Habitat: The Pilliga forest is an area of important biodiversity. Only limited related surveys were undertaken, but even then many threatened species of flora and fauna were noted. 1,000 hectares of koala habitat may be destroyed. The koala population was devastated by the recent bushfires and would be further threatened.

Environmental & Heritage destruction: Coal seam gas mining has proven to be extremely destructive to the environment, both underground and above. Coal seam gas extraction produces water that can contain lead, mercury, various salts and other heavy metals. Santos has a history that indicates it is untrustworthy. In 2011, a 10,000-litre spill of untreated coal seam gas water occurred impacting native vegetation and soil in the Pilliga forest.

The project would cause destruction in the recharge zone of the important Great Artesian Basin, the Pilliga forest and surrounding farmland - all on the sacred land of the Gamilaraay people. The Pilliga is a hugely significant landscape for indigenous people. No detailed new surveys for Aboriginal cultural heritage were made.

Climate: Gas is a fossil fuel!!! The enormous amount of greenhouse gases that would be produced by the project is outrageous. The government cannot possibly allow this if Australia is ever to meet climate action commitments. As it is, we are already way off track.

Benefits: Extract from CEDAMIA (*Climate Emergency Declaration and Mobilisation in Action*) - 29.4.19):

“Not only are we allowing LNG exports to more than wipe out the climate benefit of all our efforts to reduce emissions from the electricity sector, we are also practically giving away the gas. Ownership by Australian companies is only 16.6% across all 10 current LNG projects (at 29.4.19). Most LNG companies paid no income tax in 2016-17 despite collectively earning over \$70 billion from LNG and other fossil fuel activities in Australia, and only BHP Billiton paid any Petroleum Resource Rent Tax (PRRT).”

Local concerns: There has been NO support of this project by local people particularly landholders and indigenous people. The government should not ride roughshod over

these good people, but should respect the Australian community it serves and demonstrate some moral responsibility towards the Earth's environment. Lip service is not enough, action is required.

Conclusion and alternatives: Our governments, State and Federal, must stop climate-damaging projects like the Narrabri Gas Project immediately. Such projects are a backward step. Instead, it is high time to concentrate on developing and encouraging renewable forms of energy. Australia cannot continue to rely only on commodity exports that are dwindling. The economy is not diversified enough and needs encouragement in manufacturing and projects, especially in sustainable renewable products, not fossil fuel extraction.

It was foolish, unfair and irresponsible for the government to recommend approval of this project. Please reject it.

Thank you.

Felicity Grover

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