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**To:** [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** Submission on the Narrabri Gas Project  
**Date:** Sunday, 9 August 2020 3:22:47 PM

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## Submission by Kay Durham

I strongly object to the Narrabri Gas Project and believe it should be rejected entirely.

I am a citizen of Narrabri. I joined the community as a primary school teacher 33 years ago, taught here for the next 21 years and have now retired to this town. I grew up on a family farm in the Riverina and have lived all of my life in rural communities west of the Great Dividing Range.

I was taught by my parents to work hard, always tell the truth, look out for others in your community and care for the environment. These are the same qualities that I instilled in my pupils.

Santos CONCEALS the truth, it CORRUPTS the community and it cares NOT A JOT for the environment. It DOES, however, work hard at dividing the town with false promises of riches and jobs.

I am left wondering why we are STILL having to fight to keep this dangerous, polluting industry out of our lives. There has been a spectacular failure of governance by our elected political representatives from all levels of government. They either have not bothered to conduct their own research into the suitability of this project or, worse, they are beholden to the mining industry.

I object to Santos trying to buy support for its project through sponsoring community groups in the town. Their corporate name and logo is required to be splashed all over banners and sporting jerseys in exchange for their money. What sort of message is being sent to the community? Money and power is all that matters?

I deplore the failure of the NSW government to fully implement 14 of the 16 recommendations from the 2014 report by the chief scientist regarding CSG. In good conscience how then could the DPIE still recommended that the proposal be approved? It appears the government doesn't want to probe too deeply into Santos's operations nor ensure vital safeguards are put around their Pilliga CSG operations. Industry and Government are both complicit in this dereliction of duty to protect the community.

I fear that Santos has little regard for the environment or for farming operations that rely on the aquifers and the Great Artesian Basin that lie under their proposed mining operations. They can't guarantee that the aquifers won't be damaged. We KNOW they can't guarantee there will be no toxic spills. They can't guarantee that the wells won't eventually fail. When they do fail, and they surely will, Santos with its healthy profits safely pocketed will be long gone.

Narrabri will be left a fractured community. Please heed the warnings of the CSG communities of SE Queensland who have to now live in an industrialised and polluted landscape. They didn't know what was about to come their way back when this industry came to town. We NOW know what it will mean to US if this proposal is allowed to go ahead in OUR town.

If CSG mining has been deemed inappropriate for the Sydney basin then how can it be appropriate for us? Would you, as commissioners on the IPC, like to live next door to a coal seam gas operation? No? Neither do we. Neither would anyone else in the state.

And I haven't even mentioned global warming and our commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement OR the desecration of the traditional lands of the Gamilaraay people OR the destruction of endangered species and habitat in the Pilliga forest OR the serious cumulative effect it will have on the health of our community OR the effect on Siding Springs' dark sky OR the disposal of tens of thousands of tonnes of salt that will be generated.

I urge you to please exercise your true independence and rule against the Narrabri Gas Project. Our water, our health, our environment and our livelihoods here in Narrabri are all too precious to be gambled with.

Kay Durham