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To: [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](mailto:IPCN.Enquiries.Mailbox)
Subject: Objection letter for Narrabri Gas Project
Date: Sunday, 9 August 2020 8:38:06 AM

Submission of Objection: Santos Narrabri Gas Project

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you to express my objection for the Narrabri Gas Project. My concerns lie in all aspects: environmental destruction, pollution that will have dire consequences to the environment, risks to the various species in Pilliga forests, health risks for the surrounding communities, threats to the farmland, and above all, the climate change that concerns all of us.

The damage to the immediate environment and adverse health effects to the people in the surrounding area was well documented in the award winning film 'Frackman' (2015) by an Australian Filmmaker Richard Todd, who documented the real time fracking in Queensland over four years. Needless to say it contains shocking facts and realities of the damages fracking causes as well as how the damages are not properly assessed/addressed by the government body.

Aside from the serious adverse consequences to the immediate environment, recent extreme weather events indicate without a doubt, that we can no longer afford to keep polluting our air and destroying the natural environment who absorb greenhouse gases and keep the equilibrium of our home planet for us.

It has been proven that gas is NOT cleaner than coal. Gas emits methane that is far more powerful greenhouse gas than the CO2. Yet, gas companies and our current government are promoting gas as a cleaner ideal transitional fuel just like the tobacco companies kept saying smoking doesn't cause cancer for years even after science has proven that it does.

Let's say, we do really need the gas to meet the demand for the NSW population as the government and the gas company tell us. But what good does it do if the emission from this project adds to raise the temperature that worsens our bushfires, droughts, and causes far more damages than good?

As we heard from many professionals and experts during the IPC online hearing, there are a variety of renewable technologies available for competitive prices to meet this demand without polluting the atmosphere or destroying the environment. There are many examples from European countries who have been shifting vigorously towards renewables with great success. And their success stories are very inspiring. Many such stories are documented in Al Gore's 2nd film 'An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power' (2017). Another can be heard in the interview in 'Columbia Energy Exchange' with Dan Jorgensen, Denmark's Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities. Dan says during the interview that Denmark fortunately doesn't struggle with the climate change skepticism anymore. 'The fact that people can see the changes with their own eyes... They can just look out their windows. We have extreme weather phenomena, ... If all scientists tell you that this is the problem, it's serious. But, you can actually do something about it. Then it is only rational logic that we do, we ACT.' Then the interview follows to discuss Denmark's ambitious goals to reduce emissions by 70% by 2030.

Ice is melting. Sea is rising. Land is sinking. Coral is dying. Our land is dry. Power of the storm is becoming more and more powerful that floods and ripping towns and villages. We all witnessed the unbelievable bushfires that engulfed so many parts of Australia simultaneously, many being uncontrollable for months, and in some instances were declared a 'National Emergency'. When was the last time we have come under a 'National Emergency'? The scale of the fire was beyond words that made the rest of the world worry. Many forests and national parks burnt that has never burnt before. And again, bushfire season is fast approaching just around the corner. I wonder if the volunteer firefighters have recovered to fight again risking their lives again for months for the nation? Greg Mullins, one of Australia's prominent bushfire and emergency experts says that we are underprepared and under-resourced for what's to come. According to Mr. Mullins, our prime minister is still not listening to the experts advise on this very important matter. However, this government seems to be very much interested in keeping the gas and coal companies a green light while the country has been under lock down. I might remind us about his family holiday in Hawaii during the national emergency last year, just to demonstrate where his rational and priority lies as the leader of our country.

It is my sincere hope that we are a nation who can act on conscience especially when the choices are clear.

Yours sincerely,

Kayoko Ito

¹ Columbia Energy Exchange, 'Denmark Charts New Course on Climate' 22 Oct, 2019

² <https://www.michaelwest.com.au/covert-19-government-stacks-covid-commission-with-oil-and-gas-mates-cosy-deals-follow/>