

I strongly object to the Narrabri Gas Project proceeding in The Pilliga Forest for the following reasons.

This project would lead to the violation of the integrity of The Pilliga an 100,000 hectares which is the largest remnant forest in NSW and a unique reservoir of biodiversity with many rare and endemic species of flora and fauna The extensive infrastructure of roads, lines and gas pipes along with the clearing of well pad sites, compromise the connectivity of the bioregion and breaks open the ecosystem of the forest into a fragmented series of parts that are then vulnerable to damage from weeds,feral animal predation and incursion and soil degradation.

"The increase in fragmentation,increased drying of the landscape and loss of critical habitat has the effect of degrading the last major forested remnant in NSW"

What is being proposed is an unknown level of internal fragmentation over an area of 100,000 hectares of PUBLIC land" (my capitalisation) David C.Paul
Draft..Submission to IPC.

The 2017 E.I.S.commissioned by Santos and undertaken by EcoLogical is inadequate for the complexity of the Pilliga and outdated by the rapid progression of the Climate Crisis and the resulting catastrophic fire storms,which were experienced in2019 as a direct result of the Climate Crisis;

"If we are to have any hope of coping with increased bushfire threat we must deal with the underlying driver -by phasing out fossil fuels, banning new coal,oil and gas projects and reaching net zero emissions as fast as possible."

'...we are in the midst of an escalating global climate emergency and the time for life-saving action is running out." Greg Mullins -former commissioner of Fire and Rescue NSW.

The Greenhouse gas emissions from this one project at Narrabri will increase Australia's Greenhouse gas emissions by close to 1% per year. The United Nations Environment Program's Production Gap Report 2019 found that

"the time to begin planning for a wind down of gas production is, as with other fossil fuels. already upon us."

If Covid19 has taught us anything,it is that we are no longer isolated entities-free to act without consideration of the consequences for the wider community. Santos' project to access the coal seam gas in The Pilliga has extensive negative ramifications for the life and well being of the human,animal and botanical populations of NSW and Australia as a whole.

I have spent most of my adult life as the owner and custodian of a 200 acre Flora and Fauna reserve on the Devil's Pinch near Armidale. My property is a dry sclerophyll forest, connected to The Pilliga through Wildlife corridors.Having experienced the intense threats of dying and dead trees and proximate fires I feel strongly that intact forests like the Pilliga should remain unmolested.

Alison Jane Parkes.