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www.jlf.org.au

From: jimmylittlefoundation@gmail.com

To: IPC via Polly Cutmore

Subject: Narrabri Gas Project

Date: Monday, 10 August 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to make a submission on the Narrabri Gas Project. I am happy for my name and submission to be included on your website. I object to the proposed Narrabri Gas Project and ask the Independent Planning Commission to reject this project. My concerns are listed below.

I am writing on behalf of the Jimmy Little Foundation (JLF). The JLF is a not for profit charitable institution with DGR - (tax exempt) status. Our vision is to improve the quality of life for Indigenous Australians and our purpose to strive for excellence in health care for Indigenous Australians. However, our greatest concern is to promote healthy outcomes for Indigenous Australians facing Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD).

What we know about CKD is one in five Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have indicators of chronic kidney disease and are four times more likely to die from it than the non-Indigenous population. That kidney-related disease kills more people each year than breast cancer, prostate cancer and road accidents. Figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics late last year revealed that about 63 people are dying with kidney-related disease every day. But more frightening is, people can lose 90% of kidney function without experiencing any visible symptoms and of the staggering 1.7 million Australians with signs of kidney disease, 1.5 million are not aware they have it.

In the Hunter New England local health district there are approximately 873,741 people and 21% identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In the Western NSW local health district there is a population of 270,775 of which 11.1% are of Aboriginal or Torres Islander descent. Many of these people rely upon dialysis and ongoing kidney care.

The life of living with CKD is challenging particularly for those who must travel, a minimum of three times weekly to receive dialysis. Essential to dialysis and drinking is clean water which is an essential element of life and plays an especially important role in haemodialysis. If the any kind of water is not clean, it is highly possible for substances from the water to cross through the filter into the blood, which may have serious consequences for the person receiving treatment.

Clean water is essential to all people, but particularly if there are ways to avoid any contaminants in our water system then we should take all step to ensure it does not happen.

It is the view of the Jimmy Little Foundation that we cannot be certain that any exploration of the Narrabri Gas Project will not cause concern or damage to the health of those living with CKD, therefore, we would like to express our opposition to this project to go ahead.

Regards,

Frances Peters-Little
Director