



Lane Cove Coal and Gas Watch

Lane Cove NSW 2066

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Independent Planning Commission
Panel for the Narrabri Gas Project
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street
Sydney NSW 2000

**Lane Cove Coal and Gas Watch
Submission to the Narrabri Gas Project IPC Commissioners
Presented on Friday 24th July 2020**

Thank you for the opportunity to present to the Commission on behalf of the Lane Cove Coal and Gas Watch, a subcommittee of the Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society. I would like to acknowledge and pay my respect to the Gomilaroi people, the traditional owners of the country on which this project is proposed, whose connection to the land continues to this day.

I am here today to represent the voices of the many thousands of people who live hundreds of kilometers away from Narrabri in the suburbs of Sydney. People who do not have this project in their backyard but non the less strongly object to it. People who have taken the time in the last six years to write submissions, write to the newspapers, attend forums, visit stalls, attend movie screenings, responded to door knock surveys and sign petitions because they feel strongly about protecting our country from coal seam gas. These people are not in the minority. They come from all walks of life and political persuasions, they live in the north, south, east and west of our state capital. We know this, because the Lane Cove Coal and Gas Watch are part of a network of grass roots organisations who have been canvassing opinions of the general public in Sydney ever since 2014. And the results are overwhelmingly clear. We are only one group of many, there are groups like us all over Sydney all receiving similar feedback.

In our local Lane Cove Government area, we door knocked six entire suburbs (Longueville, Riverview, Northwood, Linley Point, Lane Cove Central and Lane Cove West). Affluent, conservative suburbs. We found in our first survey in 2014 that 84% of residents did not want CSG on prime NSW agricultural land. In 2017 97% said they supported a stop on the mining and exploration of unconventional gas in NSW. No matter how we asked the question, sentiments got stronger. Amongst them were engineers, water experts, barristers, senior executives, and even the odd politician. We have met people with a thorough knowledge of the subject matter including ex-CSG employees who did not support the industry.

Over the past six years we have held regular stalls in Lane Cove and Gladesville talking to the general public and obtaining thousands of signatures on our petitions. In one petition we

collected 6,000 signatures which formed part of a 15,000-signature petition to the NSW Government asking for no-go zones for CSG which triggered a CSG debate in parliament house.

We are in touch with the general public. Please don't be under any illusion that just because they don't live near Narrabri that they don't feel strongly about this.

There is common community objection to CSG which is strong and consistent. These people are not naive, they understand the economics, but they also understand the importance of protecting and maintaining our natural environment.

We heard consistent concerns about water scarcity, the impacts on our farms, about pollution, concerns for the natural environment, water security and the impacts on communities. All of these things immediately come to mind for people when you raise the topic of CSG.

We know that the capacity to grow food in our own state, to have clean water, to have healthy diverse eco-systems in protected wild places, is far more important than the damage that will eventuate. People see that the short-term benefits of this industry do not outweighing the long-term irreversible risk to farmland, forests, Aboriginal heritage, water catchments, communities, people's livelihoods and people's health.

The message from the lower north shore of Sydney is very clear. And we see this sentiment across greater Sydney. People do not believe this project should go ahead. The impacts dramatically out weight the benefits. These people live a long way away from Narrabri, but it doesn't matter, it's their Australia as well. Their opinions and objections count, and I would ask you not to ignore this public sentiment.

Attached are methodologies and results for the 2014 and 2017 door-knocks.

Best Regards,

Winnie Fu

On behalf of Lane Cove Coal and Gas Watch

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Between September and November 2014, a mining survey was carried out with householders in the NSW electorate of Lane Cove. It aimed to determine community attitudes towards coal and gas mining activities, awareness of them and to learn to what extent voters were concerned about such activity, particularly if it might influence how they vote at the forthcoming State election.

The survey questionnaire was administered by volunteers from the 'Lane Cove Coal and Gas Watch' group by door-knocking throughout the following suburbs on days indicated.

Riverview	15 th November 2014
Longueville	19 th October 2014
Northwood	14 th September 2014
Linley Point	14 th September 2014

The survey was virtually a 'whole of population' survey as almost all residences in the target areas were approached. There was no random selection process and only adults were approached. 'Not at homes' were left a survey to mail back. There was some response to this. The difference between number of households approached and the numbers of completed interviews can be accounted for mostly by 'not at homes'. A high proportion of people who were at home completed the survey, Respondent's addresses were recorded on completed surveys, which should enable validation of responses if required. Response rates and other significant data can be summarised as follows.

	Riverview	Longueville	Northwood	Linley Point
No of households in suburb	660	290	130	129
No of Households approached	560	290	130	129
No of completed questionnaires	93	79	45	38
% Response rate	17%	27%	34%	29%

RESEARCH FINDINGS

	Riverview	Longueville	Northwood	Linley Point
1. Are you aware that around 80% of NSW is covered by mining and coal seam gas licenses and applications, including Sydney's drinking water catchment and Sydney itself?	71% (NO)	66% (NO)	66% (NO)	66% (NO)
2. How concerned are you currently about the impacts that the expansion of coal and coal seam gas mining is having on the land, water, air and nature of NSW?	44% (very concerned) 39% (a little concerned)	55% (very concerned) 30% (a little concerned)	62% (very concerned) 22% (a little concerned)	71% (very concerned) 20% (a little concerned)

3. Do you think the NSW government should declare a “no-go zone” for coal and gas mining in our drinking water catchments?	91% (yes)	88% (yes)	94% (yes)	91% (yes)
4. Do you think the NSW government should declare a “no-go zone” for coal and gas mining on productive agricultural land?	79% (yes)	82% (yes)	87% (yes)	89% (yes)
5. Do you think the NSW government should declare a “no-go zone” for coal and gas mining in special wild places such as state forests?	79% (yes)	72% (yes)	86% (yes)	78% (yes)
6. Do you think that coal and gas companies have too much influence over our State Government?	70% (yes)	74% (yes)	76% (yes)	76% (yes)
7. Will a political party or candidate's mining and CSG policy influence how you vote at the upcoming March 2015 NSW State election?	62% (yes)	68% (yes)	78% (yes)	67% (yes)

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In June 2017, a mining survey was carried out with householders in the NSW electorate of Lane Cove Central and Lane Cove West. It aimed to determine whether the community would support a more balanced approach to coal and gas mining in New South Wales and in particular if they would support a total stop to coal seam gas in the state.

The survey questionnaire was administered by volunteers from the ‘Lane Cove Coal and Gas Watch’ group by door-knocking throughout the following suburbs on days indicated.

Lane Cove Central 18th June 2017

Lane Cove West 30th July 2017

The survey was conducted amongst a proportion of the two suburbs, targeting free standing homes and terraces or town houses not apartment blocks, due to the difficult nature of access to apartments. There was no random selection process and only adults were approached. ‘Not at homes’ were left a survey to mail back. There was some response to this. The difference between number of households approached and the numbers of completed interviews can be accounted for mostly by ‘not at homes’. A high proportion of people who were at home completed the survey, Respondent’s addresses were recorded on completed surveys, which should enable validation of responses if required. Response rates and other significant data can be summarised as follows.

	Lane Cove Central	Lane Cove West
No of households in suburb (separate/town houses)	4,843* (1,779)	1,196* (725)
No of Households approached	402	398
No of completed questionnaires	100	112
% Response rate	25%	28%

*Only free-standing residences as opposed to apartment blocks were approached in both suburbs.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

Residents were asked whether they would support a more balanced approach to coal and gas mining in New South Wales which would:

- 1) Promote health and prosperity through agriculture and reliable clean energy;
- 2) Protect communities, including Indigenous communities and give them legal rights to object to mining;
- 3) Protect important farmland, catchments and water resources from coal mining; and
- 4) Stop mining and exploration for unconventional gas (e.g. coal seam gas).

Lane Cove Central 97% (yes)

Lane Cove West 97% (yes)