

To Members of the Independent Planning Commission,

Re: Narrabri Gas Project

I am making this submission because as a teacher, mother and grandparent my concern is for those generations that follow. They deserve clean water, clean soil and clean air. It would be immoral if I did not voice opposition to the Santos' Narrabri Gas Field development with its intended web of 850 coal seam gas wells that will destroy in patches 1000 hectares of forest and have the potential to leak methane and pierce aquifers. (The existing CSG wells in and around the Pilliga State Forest have already been responsible for toxic spills into Bohena Creek from polluted waste water used in the extraction process). The Pilliga dry woodland forest is important because it sits at the southern end of the Great Artesian Basin, has unique flora and fauna, that include 48 threatened species and it is situated in a productive farming area reliant on clean water. The Narrabri CSG Project is opposed by the traditional owners, the Gamilaroi, as it is a threat to Country and their ancient connection to the land seen in their stone tools, grinding grooves, modified trees, and rock art.

I urge you to oppose approval of this Project because it will add further to generational inequity. Younger generations, who will face the environmental, economic and social consequences of climate change, deserve sound decisions from us. And it is not sound or indeed rational to allow a project that will have such a destructive impact on air and water resources. As well, global warming will increase the frequency and intensity of fires in the Pilliga Forest introducing a greater risk of fire when the east coast of Australia is still coming to terms with the devastating losses caused by the tragic 2019 -2020 Black Summer bushfires.

It does not even make economic sense for Santos to go ahead with this Project as demand for gas is decreasing. *'Santos has become the latest Australian gas company to write off the value of its gas investments, announcing that it expects to record a \$1 to \$1.1 billion impairment as a result of a crash in global oil and gas prices.'* (Michael Mazengarb, 21 July 2020, Renew Economy, *Santos latest to write down gas investments, as total Australia losses near \$20 billion.*) And according to the International Energy Agency *'The Covid-19 crisis will have longer-lasting impacts on natural gas markets as the main medium-term drivers are subject to high uncertainty.'* (IEA) This uncertainty comes at a time when costs to produce gas are increasing and banks are becoming reluctant to lend for fossil fuel projects. Will Santos sell off the field once it is approved? Will the NSW tax payers have to support this project if it goes 'belly-up'?

I urge you to listen to the voices of the traditional owners of this land, to the scientists, to the farmers and communities of north-west NSW, to the volunteer firefighters and to NSW citizens like me who are concerned for younger generations that have to bear the consequences of our decisions.

Oppose approval for the Narrabri Gas Project.

Yours sincerely,

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