

Submission to Narrabri Gas Project

The presentations of “EDO experts” Sackett et al clearly and overwhelmingly illustrates why the NGP should not proceed and so I won't re-iterate here what has been said over and over in the mass of submissions objecting to the project.

In my verbal presentation to the IPC from the Narrabri studio (Tuesday 21 July 2020) I emphasised the risk to the future of us all from climate change due to our overuse of fossil fuels. I listened to most of the verbal presentations over the seven days of the hearings and was particularly impressed by Grogan on day 6 in relation to the CO2 content of the extracted gas. Santos have not indicated that the extracted gas is so “dirty” or that the cost of cleaning it up will be considerable.

Although the presentations by the DPIE and Santos were slick and seemingly comprehensive it is now clear that in many respects they were disingenuous and dismissive of the concerns that objectors have for the project. Mr Kitto in particular was unconvincing in his assurances that once the project was underway the outstanding “problems” would be resolved.

If approved, the project will undoubtedly please a small number of residents of the Narrabri shire and Santos' shareholders as well as numerous politicians both state and federal but not the majority of the population, as numerous surveys by Lock the Gate have shown.

There is little or no economic rationale for the project to proceed.

There is a distinct lack of social license for the project to proceed.

There is no clear plan for the salt waste disposal other than the eleventh hour suggestion that it could be used to produce sodium bicarbonate.

CSG is not the “clean” transition fossil fuel to lead us on the road to recovery from the current recession. It is a threat to our future health and that of generations to come.

The legacy of approving the project will be a forest of methane leaking wells and cross contaminated aquifers as the bore pipes disintegrate over time.

Please reject the project.

Malcolm Hartley 2020 August 10