

Dear Commissioners

I wish to object to the Narrabri Gas Project

I owned a farm for 50 years 6 miles from the Project. I relied on irrigation for the viability of the farm.

Water

The Water is the biggest worry for the community because everyone is reliant on it. The Artesian basin needs to be penetrated to get to the coal seam. Irrigation wells are limited to a depth so they don't interfere with the Artesian Basin. Penetration of the Artesian Basin will change the quality of water above.

The gas industry has bit off more than they can chew

In the early days when Eastern Star workers from Alabama visited my farm because they wanted peanuts as is traditional in Alabama. They said to me that the gas was going to be very hard to get. They had drilled some holes to get the gas released but it would be a tough job to release the gas. Then they went to sleep on the job. They indicated that it was going to it's going to take a big explosion under the ground to get the gas. I thought it was going to be too hard to do and it wouldn't go ahead.

Santos tried to buy the community

After this Santos bought Eastern Star and Santos started handed out beads and trinkets, to win favour and compromise the community through the local council giving sporting facilities and school prizes etc just as Captain Cook did when he encountered the traditional owners of this continent.

Our natural inheritance

The Pilliga Forest was taken from the timber industry and made into a National Park to save this area from the impacts of Timber production. The Bee Industry benefited from this move.

Besides producing honey the Pilliga Forest helps in the maintenance of the population of the bees and recovery of populations so that recovery from the current drought will take at least two years. Bees don't run very well on methane gas. I'm amazed that no one has spoken about the bee industry. No one has even considered the impact of the gas industry on bees and what that means for agriculture. The gas industry wants to use 20% of the area and cut it up into little squares so the area is useless for wildlife and natural processes.

Our Natural Inheritance, bees, wallabies, flora and fauna and aboriginal sites and things of this area will only be maintained if the forest is locked up for conservation this will be a heritage area in the future. I don't want the custodianship of our natural inheritance in the Pilliga Forest to be given to private enterprise who just don't care about these things.

No cheap gas from this project

The escaping methane gas cannot be controlled and the cost of purifying this gas will be expensive because of its high proportion of CO₂ to the methane.

Experts have indicated that imported gas is \$4.50 a MJ where the estimated cost of Narrabri gas is between 7 and 8 dollars a MJ.

Bruce Holland from Norwood resources said the royalties will be great but my question is: Are the royalties based on the gigajoule? If so, this low grade gas will use a greater volume of gas to create one 1 gigajoule of high grade gas.

Dr. Andrew Grogan says the high level of CO₂ gas will be no better than burning coal because it's a low quality gas. What standard will they set for all the CO₂ that is emitted from the very costly process to make it into a high grade gas? Will Santos use gas in the process of purification that will not attract royalties? They should be paying royalties for all the gas that they extract otherwise they will get gas for free with no benefit to Australia.

Government interference by SCOMO in private enterprises is an additional interference.

Everything is compromised by handshakes. There's more handshakes than telling the truth.

Bruce Holland had pie in the sky suggestions about how the gas industry would benefit the local community so that the benefits would outweigh the health risks, the forestry destruction, any water pollution and harassment of the community, to get their own way. He should not be believed because their compliance attitude is ticking boxes, beads and axes, smoke and mirrors, don't worry about it, it will be right mate, trust us. This point is demonstrated by the fact that Santos couldn't comply with the 16 Recommendations of the Chief Scientist.

With slick accounting they will never turn a profit that is taxable and are not genuine about their community investment if they don't pay tax.

Conclusion

No one trusts the project or past approval processes so that the Project has no social licence and should not be approved.

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