

28 Mansfield Rd  
Galston NSW 2159  
22/07/2020

Independent Planning Commission  
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street  
Sydney 2000

**Re: Narrabri Coal Seam Gas Project**

My name is Barry Lees and I wish to **STRONGLY OBJECT** to the construction of Narrabri coal seam gas project. I am a retired Civil Engineer. My objection concerns climate change.

For many years, climate scientists have been warning us about warming of the planet. There is general consensus that this is due to human activities, and that burning of fossil fuels (oil, coal and gas) is the main contributor. An international meeting in Paris in 2015 agreed that we need to keep warming to 2 degrees and if possible, 1.5 degrees to maintain a livable planet. Scientists say that the **existing** use of fossil fuels needs to be drastically reduced, and certainly no **new** activities should be started.

Gas is a fossil fuel and the Santos proposal is to open a large new coal seam gas field south of Narrabri in NSW. They say we need the gas to fuel gas-fired power stations to generate electricity as an interim measure until renewable energy has the capacity to take over from coal. Others have shown that if we adequately fund research and construction of renewables, we can produce enough renewable energy to cope with electricity demand. **So this Project is just not needed.**

There are a range of other risks that are avoided if the Project does not proceed. These include:

- Depressurizing and lowering the groundwater level, causing farm bores to stop working
- Contamination of aquifers
- Contamination by highly polluted water stored in above-ground dams
- Loss of rare plants and animals and Aboriginal cultural heritage sites in the Pilliga forest
- Loss of valuable farming country
- Social and economic disruption in Narrabri and smaller villages
- Inadequate restoration at end of project, or beforehand if Santos goes broke.

Yours faithfully



Barry Lees