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Presentation
of
21st July 2020
COLLEEN FRASER

presentation to the IPC of the surveyed community of Gilgandra by No CSG Gilgandra District Inc.

21st July 2020

Attention; The Panel Members,
The Independent Planning Commission,
Narrabri Gas Project Public Hearing.

Hello. My name is Colleen Fraser and I represent the surveyed community of Gilgandra for NCSGGDInc.

It should be first said that I do not consider myself an activist, and nor do I represent activists, our group is simply compiled of residents seeking the facts who are deeply concerned about their Families, Livelihoods and Futures.

It has been said by Santos and other organisations that communities are in favour of this project to go ahead. I am here as one of two Survey Coordinators to stand for the community of Gilgandra who have had, since I have been involved in 2013, no open community consultation from the Department or Santos. The information the Gilgandra residents have, they have sourced on their own or from resources supplied by our group. The groups intension was to have a survey with unbiased, truthful information so the community could make their own straight forward decision. They were not coerced by anyone from our survey process but were given the chance to have their say.

The Survey was carried out in the many months between the end of 2013 and early 2016. Many members of the Gilgandra community worked together to successfully survey 4,836 square kilometers of the entire Gilgandra Shire. We carried out thorough independent letterbox drops, had 15 information nights, followed by surveying each area, and then, 15 declaration ceremonies, as we covered the Shire. All our local Councillors were invited to each of these ceremonies and with every declaration there were a number of Councillors showing their community support, objecting to the NGP. Every standing Councilor attended multiple declarations. A Declaration Certificate, for each area, was presented to our Mayor who then would forward it on to our local state member, Kevin Humphries.

At the information nights, a total of over 120 volunteers came forward to ask if they could survey their areas and take part in the process. There were neighbours surveying their neighbours and local roads to make sure no one was missed and everyone over the age of 16 years of age had the opportunity to answer the survey. The surveyors were instructed to give everyone the opportunity to have their say, to explain the survey question and make sure it was their decision to say Yes, Not Sure or No, and not to influence their decision at all. We supplied unbiased information and if they were not sure at the time and needed more information, we told them to read all the paperwork then google Coal Seam Gas and form their own opinion. Those people were given time to do this and then contacted by either the surveyor or myself.

Asking the Question **DO YOU WANT YOUR ROADS AND LANDS GASFIELD FREE?**

We surveyed:

- 483,600 hectares
- over 2 years & 5 months
- 2937 adults over 16 years of age.
- 251 roads

With these results:

- 2881 answered YES
- 45 answered NOT SURE
- 11 answered NO
- 65 people declined to participate

In 2016 the Population of Gilgandra was 4234. There are approx. 1750 occupied homes in the Shire. Our result was 98.09% who are **against the project**. We proudly display that result on signs on the 5 main s the entries to the Shire, **Gilgandra Shire is community declared Gasfield Free**. Council fully supported the signage.

With, in past years, Seismic testing and test holes drilled, in various places in the shire the community has reason to be concerned.

Major concerns raised by the community were:

- Contamination and Drawdown of the Groundwater. Gilgandra is totally dependent on bore water including farms and the Town.
- How the community survives if the water is contaminated?
- Who is going to employ the thousands of farmers and their family members if they can no longer use the water for stock and to continue farming their land which, in many cases, has been held by multiple generations?
- If their stock drink groundwater that is contaminated are they liable when filling out their National Vender Declarations?
- Are their farms covered by various Insurances?
- How does their Biosecurity Plan work if Gas people have access to their property?
- Where Santos intends to dispose of all the chemically contaminated waste products?
- If PELs have expired why are they still available for use?

As you can see this survey process was thoroughly carried out.

During the time we were surveying our Shire many other communities were also being surveyed using the same or similar process and covering more than 3.2 million hectares of North West NSW. The overall results of asking the communities to have their say during various processes are:

Survey Name	Date of results	Areas	% Object	% Not sure or Abstain	% Support
EIS public submissions. 22,949	May 2018	Open to all Areas	98%		2%
EIS Public submissions Narrabri Shire postcodes only	May 2018	Only local PC determined by Dept Of Planning	64%		36%
Lock the Gate Community Surveys	Over 5 years	North West NSW Communities	96%		4%
Reachtel (Barwon)	17/03/2015	Barwon Electorate	87%		13%
Reachtel (Tamworth)	17/03/2015	Tamworth Electorate	87%		13%
Fairfax Online Survey	07/02/2017	The Land on-line readers	76%		24%
Gisera Survey	29/05/2018	Narrabri Shire Residents	57%	14%	30%
NW Alliance Narrabri Town Survey	November 2018	Narrabri Town Residents	52%	20%	28%

These research results show very definitely that **Social Acceptability** is clearly contrary to the opinion of Santos and Supportive Representatives. Much controversy has surrounded and continues to surround the project. These surveys were also carried out in areas like Gloucester, Northern Rivers and other Australian States which are also under threat of CSG.

It is clear to see that the Narrabri Gas Project does not have a Social License.

Thank you for allowing me to speak and to proudly represent our community.

Colleen Fraser



No CSG Gilgandra District Inc.