

Independent Planning Commission NSW
Level 3,
201 Elizabeth Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

21 July 2020

Coal Seam Gas Project Narrabri

I write to seek the commission's decision to reject approval of the Narrabri Coal Seam Gas Project.

These points form the basis of my submission:

- Coal seam gas is mostly methane
- Methane is vastly more damaging than CO2 to the world's climate
- Fracturing coal beds leak methane to the atmosphere
- Contaminated water is considerably laden with salt and heavy metals
- The Pilaga region is highly sensitive to biodiversity interference
- The Narrabri region is essential farming country

Every day in a decaying industry is a day not developing a future industry. Time, as we all know, is unforgiving - a lost day can never be regained. The days remaining to transition to smart energies get fewer, day by day. On that basis, this project has to be abandoned.

Covid-19 has set the example. How quickly have manufacturers altered their production processes to meet the crisis. Industry can and does have the capability to change course. It invests in opportunities rapidly. That need to change course is found right now in Narrabri.

By disallowing approval for this type of mining, the Commission will be leading the direction of a smart energy future.

Take that step Commission. Give the farmers of Narrabri certainty. Give the people of our country and our worldwide produce-buying customers the peace of mind that this land is safe, that this region is valued and we are proper stewards of our common wealth.

As the NSW government announces enormous renewable energy projects for central NSW, the electric car industry reports significantly increased customer demand and solar technologies reach ever higher achievements, it's time to lead industries like coal bed methane extractors to new markets, to pivot like the Covid-19 responsive manufacturers have done.

Recall the condemnation of the South Australia government for its mega-battery investment and the multitude of politicians who told us renewables will never supply base load power. Thankfully people with a vision maintained their conviction and we are better off.

The Commission has to arrive at this view. Its a view which safeguards environmental and business planning within a multi-generational perspective. Today is almost over. Disallow the mining of methane from coal beds at Narrabri.

Yours faithfully



Scott Lie
PO Box 6179
North Ryde NSW 2113