

From: [Bronwyn Walker](#)
To: [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: Narrabri Gas Project
Date: Friday, 21 August 2020 9:58:04 AM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in relation to the new material Santos Ltd has provided the Independent Planning Commission regarding its proposed Narrabri Gas Project (SSD 6456).

Contrary to the assertions made by Santos Ltd the Narrabri Gas Project is neither critical for energy security in NSW nor energy reliability. Their justification for the project also relies on illogical gas price modelling.

There are numerous other issues of concern that Santos have failed to reconcile in their final submission. I will outline just three of these now.

Santos have not adequately addressed this issue of salt waste. Salt waste is peculiar in that it is highly soluble in water and there is high risk of escape into groundwater which would have devastating and far reaching environmental consequences.

Additionally, groundwater hydrology in the region is poorly understood. Current knowledge is not sufficient for Santos to be confident of their project's impact on groundwater.

Australia is extremely vulnerable to the future impacts of climate change and it is undoubtedly in our interests to leave all remaining fossil fuels in the ground. The Narrabri Gas Project should be rejected on these grounds alone. Allowing new projects of this kind will increase the risk of climate change tragedies like the 2019-2020 Australian bushfire disaster. Our ecosystems can't sustain these events, nor can the national psyche. NSW must commit to a renewable energy future without relying on gas or coal.

NSW can lead the nation in rapidly deescalating our reliance on fossil fuels. Ross Garnaut, in his 2019 book *Superpower: Australia's low carbon opportunity* clearly demonstrates the prosperous and bright future Australia can have in a low carbon future. This is a future of energy security for both industry and households. This is a future where we process our own minerals using renewable energy and export the high-value finished products. NSW needs to move into this new economy now.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on this issue.

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