

From: [Carol Bennett](#)
To: [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: Narrabri Gas Project (SSD 6456) - Response to the Department's Response to Independent Planning Commission Questions
Date: Friday, 21 August 2020 4:39:52 PM
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Dear Sirs,

In his letter "Response to Independent Planning Commission Questions" dated 14 August, under the section relating to the Precautionary Principle, David Kitto indicates that the 1st precondition for the application of the Precautionary Principle is "*Threat of serious or **reversible** environmental damage*". I believe this is actually a typo and should read "**irreversible**".

He states that "*the Department concluded that the project would not cause any serious or irreversible environmental damage, and consequently that it did not trigger the first of the pre-conditions for the precautionary principle to be triggered.*" However, he concedes that "*there is some scientific uncertainty about the likely localised impacts of the project*" and goes on to say that the Department has "*recommended conditions requiring Santos to implement additional preventative measures to avoid and/or minimise the environmental impacts of the project, and to adapt its operations in response to any new findings or changes in circumstances*".

I would contend that the fact the Department have found it necessary to include these recommendations is an indicator that there is in fact a potential problem, with the possibility of irreversible environmental damage. Adaptive management is not an acceptable response to this, as in all probability it would be too late to resolve any damage. I therefore suggest that this is sufficient grounds to trigger the Precautionary Principle.

I continue to oppose this project, and respectfully request that you do not approve it.

Yours faithfully,



Carol Bennett (Tel: 02 6558 4333)