

Dear IPC

I am writing to you at the last minute in some frustration. Santos and the Department have had several weeks and many resources behind them to produce their final responses whereas the general public have had just a week to respond. I have not had the time or the access to experts to produce the detailed refutation of their claims that I am sure is possible. Instead I would like you to take some things into consideration while you deliberate on your decision.

The prolonged drought, accelerated climatic changes, the recent horrendous bushfires and the COVID 19 effect on our lives have all led to a change in the outlook of the local community, NSW and Australia as a whole. We are facing extraordinary circumstances and people have realised that "business as usual " will no longer be enough to face those challenges. We are at a critical point in history and you have an opportunity here to reflect that community sentiment and send a strong signal to the fossil fuel industry and its supporters that their time has come and gone. We need to protect our remaining water supplies, biodiversity, fresh air, aboriginal heritage, farming land and rural communities at all costs. We need a new vision of what a healthy, supportive and sustainable community looks like and it does not include CSG.

Thank you for listening

Lynn Benn