



birding
nsw



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NSW Field Ornithologists Club Inc

ABN: 72 008 283 208

PO Box Q277 QVB Post Shop

Sydney NSW 1230

Email: info@birdingnsw.org.au

Website: www.birdingnsw.org.au

The Director
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
Level 22, 320 Pitt St Sydney NSW 2000

18 March 2017.

Dear Sir or Madam,

RE: Santos Plan to mine Coal Seam Gas in the Pilliga State Forest of NSW.

Once the fragile environment of the Pilliga State Forest is gone, it will be gone forever.

There are so many unknowns about CSG mining and the long-term effects are the most concerning as no-one really knows what will happen. Certainly we know that, in the short to medium term (now to 30 years hence) there will be dangers to the threatened wild life of the area, change to climate by increased droughts, risk to clean water and increased bushfires. We are already seeing increased ferocity in wildfires and in floods caused by the clearing and removal of the natural bush.

While the available gas may be a plus for the economy of Australia, so is the Industry of Tourism. Tourism largely grows on the unique character of our fauna and flora that attracts people from all around the world. We have no old castles, no history aside from the Indigenous Peoples care of the land, and no identifiable cuisine called "Australian".

We *do have* a wonderful natural environment which must be preserved. Shall we be the generation to lose Koalas, Wallabies, Kookaburras and Wombats?

This is the real danger.

Please refuse this destruction.

Sincerely,

Ian Bailey

Office of Conservation Birding NSW.

On behalf of the Executive Committee and our 400+ Members.

