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coal & csg free mirboo north, south gippsland VIC, made the following submission on the project:

[Narrabri Gas Project](#)



Objects to this project

Dear Committee members,

We understand that the Narrabri Gas Project by Santos involves the progressive development of a coal seam gas field comprising up to 850 gas wells on up to 425 well pads over 20 years, and the construction and operation of gas processing and water treatment facilities, including: a central gas processing facility for the compression, dehydration and treatment of gas; a water management facility for the storage and treatment of produced water; an in-field gas compression and water management facility; and water and gas gathering pipelines and ancillary infrastructure.

We also understand that this is the last remaining CSG proposal in NSW. We therefore encourage the NSW government to oppose this development and to introduce a BAN on the onshore gas industry as Victoria has just done. Our reasons for this are:

The Pilliga coal seam gas project would be a disaster for our climate, local bushland, wildlife, groundwater and for the Traditional Owners, farmers and rural communities who live and work here as well as for the thousands of visitors who come here each year and for the hospitality and tourism operators here.

The Pilliga is one of 15 nationally listed 'biodiversity hotspots' and is vital to the survival of threatened species like the koala, spotted-tailed quoll, black-striped wallaby, eastern pygmy-possum, pilliga mouse and south-eastern long-eared Bat.

Coal seam gas fuels further climate change. Southern Cross University proved that methane concentrations were higher closer to methane production sites and that methane is by far the major component of natural gas which is a greenhouse gas 72 times more powerful than CO². CSG fields contribute to climate change through the leakage of methane during the production, transport, processing and use of coal seam gas. Recently, the daily media reported the seriously high levels of methane emissions from these wells. Although we can't see it with the naked eye or smell it, specialised cameras show enormous levels of methane emissions from these projects. Further, the onshore gas industry is unable to contain these emissions anywhere in the world.

The Narrabri gasfield poses a real risk to our two most precious water resources: the Great Artesian Basin and the Murray-Darling Basin. The area of the Great Artesian Basin with the highest recharge rates is almost entirely contained within the Pilliga East forest.

The Gamilaraay Traditional Custodians are opposed to this project. There are hundreds of cultural sites as well as songlines and stories connecting the Gamilaraay to the forest and to the groundwater beneath. Gamilaraay people are deeply involved in the battle against CSG, and have told Santos they do not want their country sacrificed for a coal seam gas field.

Bushfire risk will rise. Methane flare stacks up to 50m high would be running day and night, even on total fire ban days. The Pilliga is already prone to severe bushfires, this project will increase the risk of ignition.

In addition, this project will include:

a central gas processing facility for the compression, dehydration and treatment of gas and an in-field gas compression and water management facility. These facilities require 24/7 operation and create noise and disturbance for people and herds all of the time.

a water management facility for the storage and treatment of produced water; "Produced" water is a misnomer. In our dry continent, vast amounts of groundwater and aquifers will be drained, contaminated (by chemicals released naturally and by hydraulic fracturing chemicals), stored (in above ground dams that leak, flood etc.) and treated so that onshore gas companies can sell our water back to us.. Fonterra, New Zealand stopped accepting milk from farmers whose land had been treated with this so-called "produced" water and sludge. It meant substantial costs to Fonterra to ensure that their milk was not contaminated by the companies; and

water and gas gathering pipelines and ancillary infrastructure. It has been proven that this uses about 25+% of the land available, that this infrastructure is permanent and interferes with other landuses like tourism, farming, leisure and recreation etc. Santos will no doubt have exaggerated the number of new jobs created as a result of this project especially when displaced jobs and people from the agricultural, hospitality and tourism sectors are taken into account. The devastating impact on local communities of the "boom & bust" building cycle that comes with the onshore gas industry has also been well documented (see ABC Landline) This project would cause industrialisation of a natural/rural landscape and ecosystem. The onshore gas industry is incompatible with other land uses and causes many health problems (see Doctors for the Environment & Healthy Futures) and there is no Social Licence for this project to proceed.

Given all these points and many others that will be made by 1000s of oral and written objections, we expect the government to disallow this development and put legislation in place to give people the certainty that they need over the long term as Victoria has just done - Onshore Gasfields are Banned!

Thankyou for your time and consideration

Gayle Margaret for Coal & CSG Free Mirboo North