

## **ECCO, Orange NSW NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Narrabri Gas Project**

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#### **Objects to this project**

On behalf of the Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Orange (ECCO) I would like to express our concerns about the serious environmental damage risks posed by the Narrabri gas project.

The project threatens habitat availability for state listed threatened species through vegetation clearance. If successful, the project will cause the destruction of 150 ha of habitat and will result in the fragmentation of 1700 ha of native vegetation, the result of which will be that of weed infestation.

Santos has no solution for the disposal of the 1700 to 4200 tonnes of salt waste produced each year. Unless removed from the area, this could have a devastating effect on district soil productivity.

In addition, the water removed for CSG extraction could have the effect of reducing the pressure in the recharge areas-potentially stopping the free flow of water to the surface of springs and bores across the whole Great Artesian Basin.

Methane flare stacks up to 50 metres high would be operating day and night, even on total fire ban days. The Pilliga is prone to severe bushfires. The project would increase ignition sources as well as extracting, transporting and storing a highly flammable gas right within this extremely fire prone environment.

Methane is by far the major component of natural gas. It is a greenhouse gas 72 times more powerful than carbon dioxide. CSG fields contribute to climate change through the leakage of methane during the production, transport processing and use of coal seam gas.. CSG adds to climate change risk when used in homes and factories, producing CO2 emissions.

ECCO wishes to ensure that the Pilliga scrub, a national icon, is safe from future inappropriate development which poses a threat to its ecology. We ask that the Narrabri Pilliga be declared as a mining-free area.

Nick King President, ECCO