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[Skip to content](#)

[Home](#) > [Development Assessments](#) > [Major Project Assessments](#)

Gloucester Knitting Nannas, Gloucester NSW, made the following submission on the project:

[Narrabri Gas Project](#)



Objects to this project

The Gloucester Knitting Nannas are opposed to the approval of the licence to allow Santos to drill 850 CSG wells in the Pillaga area on many grounds. Our major objection relates to water. On the world's driest continent, water is our most precious commodity, and should be receiving the highest level of protection from all levels of government. The wells would be drilled in an important recharge area for the Great Artesian Basin, the major source of water for rural communities across western NSW and beyond, and would cause this much needed water to be diverted. Local farmers are already reporting depleted bore water, thanks to Santos' current activities. The record of CSG companies in Queensland shows that their activities lead to loss of water, and this has the potential to affect our food security.

In the initial stages, it is anticipated that over 35 billions litres of toxic groundwater would be extracted, and whilst it is proposed that this water will be treated, it will generate many thousands of tonnes of salt, for which there is no safe disposal plan.

The Pillaga Forest is the largest temperate woodland in New South Wales, and is home to a unique range of wildlife, including endangered species. If allowed to go ahead, Santos would clear almost 1,000 hectares, and place many of these species at risk, and irreversibly damage this eco-system.

There has been much debate relating to the supposed gas shortage. Many reputable researchers refute that this shortage will eventuate. I would refer you to this article by Michael Slezak that appeared in the Guardian on 18 May :

https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2017/may/18/australias-2018-gas-shortage-will-not-eventuate-report-shows?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Tweet.

It refers to a report by Tim Forcey and Dylan McConnell at Melbourne University's Australian-German climate and energy college, which notes "that wind and solar could produce cheaper electricity than gas, and if combined with storage, would protect electricity prices from the high gas price", and concludes "Gas has often been characterised as a `transition fuel', on the pathway to a zero-emissions power system. The falling costs of renewable energy and storage technologies, the increasing gas cost, and climate change objective suggest this transition is no longer necessary, and indeed a detour."

There is also little doubt that much of gas from the Narrabri field is destined for export, not for domestic consumption.

The internationally acclaimed Observatory at Siding Springs is in Australia's only Dark Sky Park and will be affected by the light from the flares if Santos is allowed to go ahead. The potential damage to our international reputation in this field needs to be taken into account.

The effect of deliberate and fugitive emission of large quantities of methane on climate change should also be taken into consideration. We believe that the rebates that would inevitably be granted to Santos could be better used as investment in renewable energy sources and

research.

We do not feel that it is appropriate for us to comment on the impacts on the local Aboriginal community, on the spiritual, cultural and social life of the Gamilaraay people, but merely ask that these form part of your review.

There are well documented health issues relating to coal seam gas, both from overseas sources and the Queensland gasfields.

The philosophy of the Knitting Nannas as stated in our Nannafesto, is that "we want to leave this land better than we found it, for our children, grandchildren and future generations. They deserve to have a future with a clean and healthy environment, natural beauty and biodiversity."

In light of all the above, we would ask that this licence not be granted.