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## **Lismore Environment Centre, Lismore NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **[Narrabri Gas Project](#)**

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

Lismore Environment Centre  
Lismore Transit Centre  
115 Molesworth Street  
Lismore NSW 2480

Attn: Executive Director, Resource Assessments

Department of Planning and Environment

GPO Box 39 Sydney NSW 2001

This is a submission to the Narrabri Gas EIS.

Lismore Environment Centre has over 35 members. We object to this project, and believe the project should be stopped and that any gas exploration and gas production licenses should be cancelled. The EIS is based on assumptions and contains misleading data.

This Group supports the submissions of the Coonabarabran Residents Against Gas, The North West Alliance, the People for the Plains, the NSW Nurse & Midwives Association, The Wilderness Society, the EDO, The Australia Institute, Artesian Bore Water Users Assn. (ABWUA), Nature Conservation Council, Gloucester Groundswell, GABPG, SOS Liverpool Plains, Mullaley Gas Pipeline Accord, Lane Cove Coal and Gas Watch, Namoi Water, Groundwater Solutions, Market Forces, IEFFA, Moree Council and Kyogle Group Against Gas.

We support the submissions of expert individuals:

Kevin Hayley, Brett Cole, Andrea Broughton, David Millage, Rod Campbell, Hugh Sadler, Stuart Khan, David Paull, Gavin Mudd, Isaac Santos, Bruce Robb, Tim Forcey, Marion Llyod Smith,

Geralyn Mccarron, Methuen Morgan, Matt Carrol, Stuart Lockey, Peter Cusky, Helen Bender, Caroline Reid, Gerralyn Mcarron, David C. Paull, Michelle Cullen and our Sovereign Gamillaraay voices that speak out in objection - Vanessa Hickey, Donna Kenny, Dolly Talbot.

AND the 20,000+ individuals who have objected.

#### Economic Assessment:

The economic assessment of the Narrabri Gas Project is misleading and does not comply with NSW assessment guidelines. The benefit cost analysis by consultants GHD is contradicted by the proponents' financial statements and analysis commissioned by the Australian Energy Market Operator.

(As noted by the Australia Institute in their submission).

It is not justified: Santos' own coal seam gas export activities in Queensland have caused gas prices to rise and supply to become unpredictable.

Demand for gas is falling in NSW, reverse cycle air conditioning is cheaper... NSW could and should respond to this by investing in more reliable and ultimately cheaper renewable energy, not by letting Santos inflict more environmental, social and economic harm.

#### Groundwater:

It will extract over 35 billion litres of toxic groundwater, much of it in the first five years. This water will be treated and in the early years will generate tens of thousands of tonnes of salt, for which there is no safe disposal plan.

It will cause significant diversion of water from a recharge aquifer of the Great Artesian Basin, which is a water resource relied upon by rural communities across western NSW.

It will lead to large deliberate and fugitive emissions of methane, adding to climate change as methane is an even more powerful greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.

It will cause more trauma to the regional Aboriginal community because the area of impact is crucially important to the spiritual, cultural and social life of Gamilaraay people.

It will cause economic upheaval in Narrabri and put agricultural industries at risk, as well as causing light pollution that will ruin the dark night sky needed by the internationally renowned Siding Spring Observatory. Regional Tourism is a has far greater long term economic benefit than short term on-shore gas mining.

Coal seam gas is harmful to health. Neither the NSW Government nor Santos have investigated or dealt with the serious health effects of coal seam gas now appearing in peer-reviewed research in the United States.

Threat to biodiversity:

SANTOS plans to clear 988 ha of native vegetation (700 ha of State Forest) for their NSW gas field. Independent studies have shown that koalas are still present in the Pilliga Forest. This would have a devastating impact on their population. Also threatened are

<http://pilligapush.com/koala-survey-within-pel-238/>

The description of important habitat for a number of key fauna, such as the Regent Honeyeater, Pilliga Mouse, Koala, Black-striped Wallaby and Five-clawed Worm-skink does not appear to be accurate.

Survey effort for some key fauna species appears to be deficient and would have adversely affected the ability of the EIS to adequately account some species.

We urge the Government to reject this project and make the Great Artesian Basin recharge off-limits to coal seam gas mining.