



NARRABRI and District Chamber of Commerce

The Hon. Anthony Roberts MP

Minister for Planning

GPO Box 5341

Sydney NSW 2001

20 May, 2017

Dear Minister,

Re: Submission on behalf of the Members of Narrabri and District Chamber of Commerce in support of the Santos Narrabri Gas Project EIS

The Narrabri and District Chamber of Commerce (NDCC) have a long proud and active history of in excess of 50 years of unbroken service to the business and wider community of Narrabri and District. NDCC have had a close and productive working relationship with the Narrabri Gas Field operators since day one.

A recent vote by Chamber Members revealed unanimous support for the development of the Narrabri Gas Field and Santos as the operator.

NDCC have numerous farmers and agriculture focused members who were included in this unanimous vote of support.

Diversity is the key to healthy sustainable growth for regional communities. Narrabri being one of only three growth centres in the Northern Inland of NSW is an example of this.

Much of this growth can be attributed to the local Extractive Industry.

Agriculture has and always will be our primary focus and greatest export.

Census figures confirm that 22.7% of the Northern Inland workforce is employed in agriculture; however, this means that 77.3% are employed in industry unrelated to agriculture.

It is absolutely critical to the healthy sustainable growth of our regional communities that we continue to develop a diverse range of quality career opportunities for our young people. Regional communities cannot survive unless the current unsustainable loss of our quality young people in search of career opportunities is addressed. The Santos Narrabri Gas Field project can provide many of these necessary career opportunities while securing a highly critical energy source for all of NSW.

The members of Narrabri and District Chamber of Commerce wholeheartedly support the development of Narrabri Gas Field and the Santos EIS.
NDCC encourage the approval of the project as a matter of urgency.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Russell Stewart', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Russell STEWART

President, Narrabri and District Chamber of Commerce