

The Hon. Anthony Roberts MP  
Minister for Planning  
GPO Box 5341  
Sydney NSW 2001

**19 May, 2017**

Dear Minister,

**Re: Submission on behalf of RDA Northern Inland to the Narrabri Gas Project EIS**

The following is a submission on behalf of the Committee of Regional Development Australia Northern Inland (RDANI), in support of the Narrabri Gas Project.

RDANI is a not-for-profit, incorporated Association, jointly funded by the Australian and NSW State Governments. We are drivers of change, and as such, have a pivotal role in fostering regional economic development. We aim to be the driver of business growth, new jobs, skills development and business investment within Northern Inland NSW. We are strong advocates for this region, in which the Narrabri Gas Project is located.

All Committee members (including the Chair) serve in a voluntary capacity, and are independent (non-parochial and non-partisan). Members are selected (by the Chairs) based on their skills, so the Committee can truly represent the sectors that are important to our regional economy. The Committee offers an opportunity for representation from business, community, and government sectors.

Given our core role of supporting projects and initiatives which contribute to economic development and jobs, we would like to endorse the significant positive economic impacts described within the Narrabri Gas Project EIS. The Project is expected to generate a net positive economic impact for the economies of Narrabri LGA, the wider region and NSW as summarised below:

- Real economic output of \$11.9 billion (around \$5.1 billion net present value), including
  - \$11 billion in the Narrabri Shire
  - \$572 million in the wider region
  - \$384 million across the rest of NSW
- Real income of \$6.0 billion (around \$2.8 billion net present value), including
  - \$526 million in the Narrabri LGA
  - \$690 million in the wider region
  - \$4.8 billion across the rest of NSW



- Establishment of a Gas Community Benefit Fund which would receive \$120 million over the life of the project.
- 1300 direct jobs during the two-year construction period
- Ongoing average direct and indirect employment over the 25-year assessment period of 512 FTEs in NSW, including:
  - 127 full-time equivalent jobs in the Narrabri LGA
  - 161 full-time equivalent jobs in the wider region
  - 224 full-time equivalent jobs in the rest of NSW

The Narrabri Gas Project would boost the NSW economy and deliver significant benefits at the local, regional and State level. In addition, the commitment to utilise the gas for domestic purposes will address issues around long-term gas supply at an affordable price for NSW residents and businesses.

Opportunities for significant commercial infrastructure projects of this magnitude are limited in regional NSW, where any opportunity for diversified employment is critical in addressing issues around unemployment and population decline. We consider this a vital economic development project, not just for the Narrabri Shire, but for the entire State of NSW.

On behalf of Regional Development Australia Northern Inland, thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Axelsson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nathan Axelsson  
Executive Officer