

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

16 May, 2017

Dear Minister,

Re: Submission on behalf of the NSW RDA Chairs to the Narrabri Gas Project EIS

The following is a collective submission from the 14 Regional Development Australia (RDA) Committees in NSW in support of the Narrabri Gas Project. The Committees represented in this submission are:

Regional Development Australia – Central Coast
Regional Development Australia – Central West
Regional Development Australia – Far West
Regional Development Australia – Hunter
Regional Development Australia – Illawarra
Regional Development Australia – Mid North Coast
Regional Development Australia – Murray
Regional Development Australia – Northern Inland
Regional Development Australia – Northern Rivers
Regional Development Australia – Orana
Regional Development Australia – Riverina
Regional Development Australia – South Coast
Regional Development Australia – Southern Inland
Regional Development Australia – Sydney

The NSW RDA Committees are not-for-profit, incorporated Associations, jointly funded by the Australian and NSW State Governments. RDA Committees are strong advocates for their region and 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 regional NSW. All Committee members (including the Chairs) 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 Committees can truly represent the sectors that are important to their various regional economies. The Committees offer an opportunity for representation from business, community, and government sectors. Collectively,



the NSW RDA Committees operate as the Regional Development Advisory Council (RDAC). This submission is presented by RDAC in order to provide a single view from regional NSW.

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:

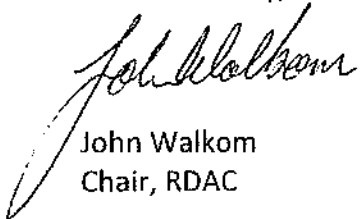
- Real economic output of \$11.9 billion (around \$5.1 billion net present value), including
 - \$11 billion in the Narrabri Shire
 - \$572 million in the wider region
 - \$384 million across the rest of NSW
- Real income of \$6.0 billion (around \$2.8 billion net present value), including
 - \$526 million 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 the 14 Regional Development Australia Committees based in NSW, thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission.

Yours Sincerely,



John Walkom
Chair, RDAC