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## **Running Stream Water Users Association, Kandos NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

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

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

We object to this project.

This project will damage precious natural water resources, including the Great Artesian basin and the Murray-Darling basin. The highest recharge area for the Great Artesian basin is within the Pilliga East forest and water removed for CSG extraction could reduce water recharge pressures and irreparably damage the flow of water to the surface across the entire basin. Furthermore, creeks from the Pilliga run into the Namoi River, part of the Murray-Darling system, and contaminants from the proposed 850 CSG drill sites are extremely likely to pollute this system.

The Pilliga is one of just 15 nationally listed 'biodiversity hotspots' and is vital to the survival of threatened species like the Koala, Spotted-tailed Quoll, Black-striped Wallaby, Eastern Pygmy-possum, Pilliga Mouse and South-eastern Long-eared Bat. The forest is home to over 200 bird species and is internationally recognised as an Important Bird Area. The Santos gasfield would fragment 95,000 hectares of the Pilliga with well pads, roads, and water and gas pipelines, damaging vital habitat and threatening the survival of endangered species.

CSG mining fuels climate change. Methane, the major component of natural gas, is a greenhouse gas, 72 times more powerful than CO<sup>2</sup>. CSG fields contribute to climate change through the leakage of methane during the production, transport, processing and use of coal seam gas.

The Narrabri Gas Project has a long history of spills and leaks of toxic CSG water. Santos cannot be trusted to manage the project safely. Santos has already contaminated a freshwater aquifer in the Pilliga with uranium as well as lead, aluminium, arsenic and barium. In addition, there have been over 20 reported spills and leaks of toxic CSG water from storage ponds, pipes and well heads.

As well as contamination with heavy metals, between 17,000 and 42,000 tonnes of salt waste would be produced by the project each year. Santos has no solution for disposing of the salt.

Human health is also endangered by toxic coal seam gas. A range of hydrocarbons and volatile organic compounds can be released into the air from coal seam gas operations, including flaring of gas wells. The effects of volatile organic compounds vary, but can cause eye, nose and airway irritation, headache, nausea, dizziness and loss of coordination. These impacts have been documented in human populations nearby to existing gasfields in Queensland, Sydney and in America.

There are hundreds of traditional Aboriginal sites in the Pilliga, which could be destroyed or damaged by Santos' project. The Gamilaraay traditional landowners are opposed to the project.

Ninety-six per cent of the hundreds of farmers and other residents across the region are also opposed to the project, and have made their feelings known with many protests against the proposed drilling.

Australia's premier optical astronomical observatory, the Siding Springs Observatory, situated in the Warrumbungles and adjacent to the Pilliga, is under threat from the Narrabri Gas Project due to light and dust pollution. The area has been internationally recognised as a 'dark sky park' and the 50m high gas flares proposed by Santos will threaten the viability of the facility.

Lastly, these methane flares would be running day and night, even on total fire ban days. The Pilliga is prone to severe bushfires and the project would increase ignition sources as well as extracting, transporting and storing a highly flammable gas right within this extremely fire-prone forest.