



Ryde - Hunter's Hill Flora and Fauna Preservation Society

Member of Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W.

**P.O. Box 2127
Boronia Park 2111**

Executive Director, Resource Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001
15 May 2017

Re: Narrabri Gas Project EIS.

Dear Sir/ Madam,

We object to this project and believe it should be rejected.

We are a local conservation group established over 50 years ago which aims to preserve important biodiversity on which human life depends. We consider the biggest threat to our native flora and fauna to be the impacts of a changing climate. These impacts are well predicted. However, some impacts are unknown and the precautionary principle must be applied in the decision making regard the approval to establish or expand gas extraction projects in NSW.

This project, if approved, would:

- Extract over 35 billion litres of salt laden groundwater, much of it in the first five years. Treatment of this water will generate almost 500,000 tonnes of salt waste, for which there is no safe disposal plan;
- Remove over 1,000 hectares of the Pilliga Forest, fragmenting the largest temperate woodland in New South Wales, home to unique wildlife;
- Drill through a recharge aquifer of the Great Artesian Basin and draw water down from a water resource relied upon by rural communities across western NSW;
- Result in large deliberate emissions of methane from venting and leakage, adding to climate change;
- Adversely impact on the spiritual, cultural and social life of Gamilaraay people;
- Result in light pollution that will ruin the dark night sky needed by the internationally renowned Siding Spring Observatory;
- Jeopardise access to the water supply for important agricultural industries within the Narrabri region;
- Harm people's 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.

We urge the Government to reject this project and make all of the Great Artesian Basin recharge area in NSW off-limits to gas mining.

Yours sincerely
Cathy Merchant, RHHFFPS Committee Member