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Reference: Response to Submissions on the Narrabri Gas Project

We'd like to thank Santos for their response to the submission of the Dark Sky Committee of Siding Spring Observatory. We have read the response and find that it has addressed the issues raised by the Observatory. We accept that flaring during routine and emergency operations will not have a detrimental impact on the observing conditions at Siding Spring Observatory.

After the approval process has reached its conclusion and routine operations begin, we recommend that Santos continue liaising with the Observatory. In particular, the Observatory wishes to be informed of any material changes to operations that may affect the sky background at the location of the Observatory. As noted in our submission, the Observatory is concerned by the incremental increase in contamination of the night sky from light sources over the long term.

We fully understand that emergency flaring may occur at any time. For flaring that occurs during routine maintenance, we ask Santos to consider performing the maintenance when the moon is more than 50% illuminated (a gibbous moon). This occurs half the time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Chris Lidman'.

Associate Professor Chris Lidman
Director, Siding Spring Observatory
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