

Santos Narrabri Gas Project – Leewood Safety Flare

Intent: Provide further information in relation to the operation of Leewood Safety Flare.

Exploration and appraisal prior to production

Santos will not construct and operate a safety flare at Leewood during this phase.

Further information regarding the operation of the safety flares

Unplanned events

Based on Santos' experience in other jurisdictions there may be up to 3 unplanned events per year. The total duration of each event is predicted to be around 3 hours, but up to 5 hours at times. During unplanned events a safety flare may operate at or near capacity.

Scheduled maintenance (total plant outage)

Based on Santos' experience in other jurisdictions one scheduled maintenance (total plant outage) is anticipated every 2 years. The duration of each event is approximately 3 days. During total plant outage a safety flare may operate at or near capacity though typically production would be reduced at the wells to reduce gas flaring. Scheduled maintenance (total plant outage) where possible, will not be scheduled to occur during winter, the season when most temperature inversions occur.

Scheduled maintenance (partial plant outage)

Based on Santos' experience in other jurisdictions two scheduled maintenance (partial plant outage) are anticipated annually. The duration of one partial plant outage would be approximately 10 hours and as far as practical will occur during standard construction noise hours, the duration of the second partial plant outage approximately 3 days. During scheduled maintenance (partial plant outage) the Leewood safety flare is unlikely to operate at or near capacity for sustained periods, and for a significant proportion of the time may operate at relatively low levels (if at all).

Production

The indicative design of the safety flare at Leewood was presented in the Narrabri Gas Project EIS. Due to the noise issues associated with the safety flare at Leewood, during detailed design of the Leewood safety flare Santos will consider and assess all reasonable and feasible noise mitigations available. Mitigations will include the use of the Bibblewindi safety flare where practicable during scheduled maintenance to reduce the use of the Leewood flare.

Santos also commits to a Leewood Safety Flare Noise Study based on final design of the safety flare including an assessment of the effectiveness of the identified mitigations, and providing this study to the Planning Secretary. If following final design including mitigations, and in the context of the likely frequency and duration of maintenance including unplanned (unforeseen) maintenance, the Planning Secretary is not satisfied with noise levels at one or more of the 15 potentially affected receivers, and upon receiving a written request from the owner of a residence, Santos anticipates mitigation measures at or near the sensitive receiver in accordance with the Voluntary Land Acquisition and Mitigation Policy for State Significant Mining, Petroleum and Extractive Industry Developments (NSW Government, 2018) will be required.