



17 December 2025

**Submission to the NSW Government Planning Portal
objecting to Santos's proposed Narrabri Gas Project lateral pipeline**

Running Stream Water Users Association objects to Santos's proposed Narrabri Gas Project lateral pipeline. This is a damaging and polluting pipeline and will open the precious Pilliga for Santos's 850-well Narrabri coal seam gasfield. The cumulative impact of this project applies to water loss and pollution, as well habitat loss and Gomeroi cultural heritage loss. Below we list our specific concerns about this proposal.

The **pipeline will damage and disrupt water resources** in the Pilliga:

- Santos plans to drill the pipeline under Bohena Creek and across six other major creeks. This will have a huge and damaging impact on groundwater in this low-rainfall area.

The pipeline will have a **detrimental impact on Gomeroi cultural heritage**:

- The Pilliga has deep spiritual, social and cultural significance for Gomeroi people. The National Native Title Tribunal acknowledged that all water resources, and Bohena Creek in particular, are of major cultural importance to Gomeroi people. The Tribunal said there should be no ground or surface disturbance within 500 metres of Bohena Creek without Gomeroi consent. However, Santos plans to drill the pipeline right under Bohena Creek and across six other major creeks, disturbing the alluvial groundwater. The EIS does not address the cultural significance of the entire Bohena Creek for Gomeroi people.
- Construction of the pipeline will also wipe out two known sites of significance to the Gomeroi people and will damage a further four sites. Gomeroi people have said the Pilliga's integrity is central to their wellbeing and cultural practice and must be kept whole.

Damaging impact on farmland and native forest:

- The pipeline crosses 12 farms, and a little under half the land it will disturb is agricultural land. One fifth of the agricultural land to be disturbed is cropping land. The other half of the pipeline cuts through the Pilliga Forest.
- Construction will clear 168 hectares of forest and will cut a 30-metre-wide swathe through the Pilliga East Forest, seriously damaging habitat for small mammals, including microbats.
- Clearance work for the pipeline will destroy habitat and put at risk threatened species that have strongholds in the Pilliga; such as the Pilliga mouse, Eastern pygmy possum, and Corben's long-eared bat.

Other issues:

- Santos's Environmental Impact Statement for the pipeline makes claims for the economic benefits of the Narrabri gasfield and Hunter gas pipeline, but doesn't take responsibility for the harm to biodiversity, water and climate from the bigger pipeline and gasfield.
- The Environmental Impact Statement should be amended to consider the full negative economic impacts of the greenhouse gas emissions from the gasfield and the two pipelines, which is likely to be very significant given Narrabri is predicted to be the sixth biggest source of greenhouse pollution in NSW.

We trust that the issues noted above will be carefully considered, and that Santos's proposed Narrabri Gas Project lateral pipeline will be denied.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Sim, President
(on behalf of Running Stream Water Users Association)