

SUBMISSION AGAINST THE NARRABRI LATERAL GAS PIPELINE(NLP)

I am a retired engineer, living in the Lower Hunter Valley. I am very aware of the effects of human enterprise on the natural world as urban expansion creeps further westward and the natural world is overwhelmed by urban and industrial development.

Natural gas has an even greater environmental impact when it involves fracking because it involves deep drilling and the use of toxic chemicals which pollute aquifers, as well as above ground infrastructure. The huge environmental impact of gas therefore, as well as its effects on human health make it a very questionable source of energy.

I object to the NLP because even Santos admit that there would be 28 threatened species and 3 threatened ecological communities affected by the clearing of 168 hectares for the NLP. It will adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of the Koala, Pilliga Mouse, Grassy White Woodland and Corben's Long eared Bat, as well as many others listed in their appendices.

The NLP is likely to have a significant impact on water resources in this area which recharges the Great Artesian Basin, because it crosses a large number of creeks and waterways which flow into the Namoi River and the Murray Darling Basin. Also, if Santos is allowed to frack for gas in the Pilliga, it has been suggested that fracking could affect underground aquifers as well as affecting the water quality of the Great Artesian Basin which would be a catastrophe.

The traditional owners of the Pilliga have not given permission for the NLP, nor for any fracking in the area. The area has great spiritual and cultural significance to them. The Native Title Review Board has said that no ground disturbance should take place within 500 metres of Bohena Creek.

The other major factor around development of gas resources is that the gas shortage has been grossly exaggerated by large companies who are profitting from exporting gas while restricting the Australian supply and thereby pushing up prices, There is no need to find more gas but simply to reduce exporting it.

For all the above reasons, and many more, which time does not allow me to provide, the NLP should not be allowed to proceed.

Thank you for reading my submission.

Yours sincerely,
Denis Rothwell