

16/12/25

Narrabri Lateral Pipeline Assessment Team
NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Re: Support of the Narrabri Lateral Pipeline

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the approval of the Narrabri Lateral Pipeline (NLP) as critical State significant infrastructure.

My name is Jack Campbell. My family has lived in the Narrabri Shire for generations, and together with my father I run our family business, Namoi WasteCorp, which he established in Narrabri 23 years ago. Namoi WasteCorp has been the primary provider of waste management services to the Narrabri Gas Project (NGP) since Santos acquired the project from Eastern Star Gas, and we have advocated for its approval for well over a decade now.

Because of this long-standing relationship, I have seen first-hand how Santos operates – from safety culture and environmental compliance through to genuine engagement with local businesses and the community. That experience underpins my confidence in both the Narrabri Gas Project and the Narrabri Lateral Pipeline and hence I have advocated for its approval for well over a decade now.

Strategic importance of the Narrabri Lateral Pipeline

The Narrabri Lateral Pipeline will connect the approved Narrabri Gas Project processing facility at Leewood to the approved Hunter Gas Pipeline south-east of Baan Baa. This link is the missing piece of infrastructure needed to allow the Narrabri Gas Project to go ahead.

The NLP has already been declared critical State significant infrastructure because it is essential to:

- supply gas from Narrabri into the NSW gas market
- strengthen reliability and security of supply on the east coast
- support a local gas source that can place downward pressure on gas prices for households, manufacturers and businesses.

Without this pipeline, the approved Narrabri Gas Project cannot practically deliver its gas to NSW consumers, and a nationally significant energy resource will remain stranded.

Role in energy security and the transition to net zero

Both the Commonwealth and NSW Governments have made clear that gas will continue to play a vital role in Australia's energy mix as we transition to net zero.

The **Future Gas Strategy** confirms that new sources of gas supply and connecting infrastructure are needed during the economy-wide transition to net zero, and specifically recognises that new supply is most economic when close to existing infrastructure

The **NSW Future of Gas Statement** similarly emphasises that secure, reliable and affordable gas is needed to support industry and regional development, and explicitly identifies the Narrabri Gas Project as critical to supply security and to putting downward pressure on prices.

AEMO's **2024 Integrated System Plan** sets out a roadmap where renewable generation and storage are backed by gas-fired generation to provide firming capacity, ensuring reliability during periods of low wind and solar output and peak demand.

The ACCC's ongoing **Gas Inquiry 2017-30** has warned that new gas production and supporting infrastructure are not coming online quickly enough, risking future shortfalls despite gas' continued critical role in the transition.

Within this framework, the Narrabri Gas Project has repeatedly been recognised as capable of supplying up to around half of NSW's gas needs, with Santos committing 100 per cent of Narrabri gas to the domestic market.

The NLP is therefore not just another piece of gas infrastructure – It facilitates the strengthening of capacity in support of the transition to renewables, and is the enabling link that turns this nationally significant gas resource into real energy security for NSW.

Approving the pipeline is, in my view, consistent with NSW's legislated climate targets.

Local and regional economic benefits

For Narrabri and the wider New England North-West region, this project is economically transformative.

The EIS estimates that construction of the Narrabri Lateral Pipeline will require a peak workforce of about 200 people, involve direct expenditure of approximately \$120 million and add over \$33 million in direct value to the NSW economy, in addition to unlocking the much larger economic benefits of the Narrabri Gas Project and Hunter Gas Pipeline.

On the back of Santos' memorandum of understanding with Narrabri Shire Council to supply cheap energy to the Northern Inland Port (Narrabri's proposed intermodal hub on the Inland Rail line) we have already seen strong interest from potential manufacturers developing facilities in Narrabri. With the combination of competitively priced energy, the Inland Rail,

the Northern Inland Port and proximity to primary production, Narrabri's economy would be reshaped.

These value-adding industries would diversify our regional economy, create long-term skilled jobs and reduce Australia's exposure to fragile global supply chains, as was evident during COVID-19.

As the primary waste-management contractor to the Narrabri Gas Project for over a decade, Namoi WasteCorp is a concrete example of the local supply-chain benefits that flow from these projects. We employ local people, invest locally and in turn support many other small businesses in the shire. Approval of the Narrabri Lateral Pipeline will sustain and expand these opportunities over the coming decades.

Conclusion

As a lifelong Narrabri local and business person whose livelihood is tied to responsible resource development, and someone who has spent years on Santos sites, I firmly believe that the Narrabri Lateral Pipeline is in the public interest.

It aligns with national and state energy and climate policy, enables an already approved gas project that can supply a large share of NSW's needs, supports the renewable transition by providing firming capacity, and delivers substantial and lasting economic benefits to Narrabri, the New England North West and NSW more broadly – all within a framework of stringent environmental safeguards and world-class safety standards.

NSW is one of the most highly regulated states in the world for resource extraction – resulting in best case outcomes for the environment on a global scale. To import gas from lesser regulated jurisdictions is to enable more environmental harm than necessary.

I respectfully urge the Department to approve the Narrabri Lateral Pipeline, subject to appropriate conditions, so that our region can contribute securely and responsibly to NSW's energy future.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission. I would welcome the chance to provide any further information that may assist.

Yours faithfully,

Jack Campbell

General Manager
Namoi WasteCorp