



Submission to NSW Planning

Re: SSI-53307723 Narrabri Gas Pipeline, a.k.a. Narrabri Lateral Pipeline.

1. Introduction & Standing

Oatley Flora and Fauna Society is a community-based environmental group dedicated to protecting native species and ecosystems across New South Wales. This submission is in response to the NSW Govt call for submissions on the State significant project application SSI-53307723 Narrabri Lateral Pipeline.

We strongly urge the NSW Government NOT to approve this application by Santos for a 55 km gas pipeline, connecting the Narrabri Gas Project to the Queensland Hunter Gas Pipeline.

This lateral pipeline is the missing link for Santos' Narrabri Gas Project. Santos wants to build a 55km high-pressure gas pipeline to carry 200 terajoules of gas a day from its gas drilling sites in the Pilliga forest, through farmland and across major creeks to the corridor of the proposed Hunter Gas Pipeline, near Baan Baa.

The pipeline would connect with Santos' gasfield plan that involves drilling 850 coal seam gas wells in the Pilliga Forest.

2. Gomeroi Cultural Heritage:

The Pilliga as a whole has deep spiritual, social and cultural significance for Gomeroi people. The National Native Title Tribunal acknowledged that all water resources, and Bohena Ck in particular, is of major cultural importance to Gomeroi people. The Tribunal said there should be no ground or surface disturbance within 500m of Bohena Ck without Gomeroi consent.

However, Santos plans to drill the pipeline right under Bohena Ck and across six other major creeks, disturbing the alluvial groundwater. The EIS does not discuss the cultural significance of the entire Bohena Ck for Gomeroi people at all.

Construction of the pipeline will also wipe out two known sites of significance and 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.

If approved, the gas pipeline will be built right across the Pilliga and directly under Bohena Ck - a creek which the National Native Title Tribunal has recognised is very significant to Gomeroi people.

The Tribunal said that there should be no surface or ground disturbance within 500m of Bohena Ck, but this pipeline will cut right through it.

3. Impacts on Water, Ecosystems & Forest

The pipeline cuts through the Pilliga forest, which is a place of enormous environmental importance as it is a recharge zone for the Great Artesian Basin water resource.

Construction will clear 168 hectares of this precious forest and will cut a 30 metre wide swathe through the Pilliga East forest, causing serious damage for microbats and small mammals.

It will clear habitat and put at risk threatened species that have strongholds in the Pilliga, like the Pilliga Mouse, Eastern pygmy possum, and Corben's Long-eared Bat.

4. Impacts on farm land

The other half of the pipeline crosses 12 farms, and a little under half the land it will disturb is agricultural land, one fifth of the land to be disturbed is cropping land.

There is community disempowerment: local farmers have a right to a say on what is developed and built on their land.

5. Climate & National Interest Considerations

This development will also drive climate change and fuel extreme weather and climate disasters that are already harming us all.

Santos' Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the pipeline claims 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.

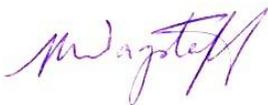
6. Recommendation

The EIS 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.

On behalf of Oatley Flora and Fauna Society, we strongly urge the NSW Govt to protect Gomeroi cultural heritage, the flora and fauna of Pilliga Forest, Bohena Creek and the rights of local farmers.

We call upon you to ensure a proper EIS is conducted, and to reject this application in full.

Yours faithfully,



Kim Wagstaff
President