

17 December 2025

NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Re: Narrabri Lateral Pipeline (SSI-53307723) – Submission in strong support

Dear Assessment Team,

My name is Ron Campbell. I am a local business owner, Director of Namoi WasteCorp, and a former Narrabri Shire Councillor/Mayor. My family has lived in the Narrabri Shire for generations, I have lived here my whole life, and I have operated a local business here for decades.

I am writing to lodge a strong and unambiguous submission in support of approval of the Narrabri Lateral Pipeline (NLP).

The NLP is essential infrastructure for NSW and for Narrabri

This pipeline is not an optional add-on. It is the enabling link that connects the approved Narrabri Gas Project to the existing transmission network via the Hunter Gas Pipeline, allowing Narrabri gas to reach the domestic market and end users. Without this connection, the benefits that have already been assessed and anticipated from Narrabri gas simply cannot be realised in practice.

For regional communities like ours, projects like this don't come along often. Most country communities are not overflowing with investment opportunities; many are stuck in a slow cycle of decline. When an opportunity arrives that can genuinely change the trajectory of a town and a region, the right approach is to make it work, responsibly—through strong standards, conditions, and ongoing accountability—not to block it entirely.

The local economic benefit is real, immediate, and broad

Approval of the NLP means real work for real people.

The construction phase will bring jobs and spending into the region—contractors, suppliers, accommodation providers, transport operators, and service businesses. The flow-on effect matters in a town like Narrabri: when a major project spends locally, it supports families, keeps small businesses trading, and strengthens our community.

But it is the longer-term effect that is truly transformational. Secure, reasonably priced energy is the backbone of economic development. It underpins investment decisions and determines whether industries can survive, expand, or relocate.

NSW cannot afford to keep losing its manufacturing and industrial base

Across NSW we have already watched businesses downsize, close, or move because energy costs and energy uncertainty make it too hard to stay competitive. The result is less Australian manufacturing, fewer apprenticeships, fewer skilled jobs, fewer opportunities for young people, and fewer reasons for families to stay in regional communities.

If NSW wants to retain and rebuild its industrial and manufacturing base, we must support energy solutions that improve reliability and affordability. Gas supply delivered reliably into the state network supports firming and stabilisation of the energy system and provides a critical input and feedstock for many industries.

A catalyst for the Narrabri Shire's long-term future

As a former councillor/mayor, as a local employer, as a family man; I'm focused on what keeps Narrabri viable for the next 50–100 years—not just the next election cycle or media headline.

The Narrabri Shire has a genuine opportunity to create a stronger, more resilient economic base through growth in industry and value-adding. The Northern NSW Inland Port and the opportunities linked to freight, agriculture, and inland logistics are the kind of long-term vision that can finally turn “regional decline” into “regional growth.” But major industrial precincts do not develop in a vacuum. They require catalysts—particularly energy security and cost certainty.

Access to reliable energy is what helps convert ambition into investment, and investment into jobs.

Namoi WasteCorp's stake: local jobs, local capability, and proven delivery

Namoi WasteCorp has been the primary provider of waste management services to the Narrabri Gas Project since it was acquired by Santos from Eastern Star Gas. We have built capability, systems, and local employment around supporting this project safely and professionally.

We have advocated for this project for over a decade because we have seen, first-hand, how much it matters to the region—and how important it is that work and procurement opportunities remain in the hands of local and regional businesses wherever possible.

Environmental protection and safety must be non-negotiable—and achievable

Supporting approval does not mean ignoring environmental and cultural values. It means backing a project that can be built and operated under strict standards, with enforceable conditions, and with genuine monitoring and compliance.

I support the NLP proceeding with strong conditions that ensure:

- robust environmental management during construction and operation,
- continued engagement and consultation with local Aboriginal stakeholders,
- effective rehabilitation and biodiversity offset requirements where impacts cannot be avoided, and
- best-practice pipeline safety and integrity management.

In my view, NSW can both protect what matters and responsibly deliver critical infrastructure—if we insist on high standards and ongoing accountability.

My request to the Department

For the reasons above, I respectfully request that the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure approve the Narrabri Lateral Pipeline.

This is a project that supports jobs in the bush, supports investment confidence, strengthens energy reliability, and helps keep industry in NSW. It is also a project that can be delivered under modern regulatory expectations and strong environmental safeguards.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely,

Ron Campbell

Director – Namoi WasteCorp

Former Narrabri Shire Councillor/Mayor