



For Wild Places Foundation Limited

ABN: 35 661 735 557

www.forwildplaces.com

Shop 8, 264-270 Lawrence Hargrave Drive, Thirroul, 2515

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Thursday 18th December 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of For Wild Places Foundation Limited, I am writing to object to the proposed Pilliga Lateral Pipeline in the Pilliga Forest. For Wild Places is an Australian charity and not-for-profit that inspires and empowers outdoor communities to learn, care for, and celebrate the wild places we love to explore. We promote stewardship and action by hosting inclusive, sustainable outdoor events, supporting environmental campaigns and being a voice for wild places. Since 2020, we have been building a community of activated, informed and passionate advocates for wild places, and one of our main areas of focus has been the Pilliga Forest.

In 2022, we hosted our first event in the Pilliga Forest, which welcomed 80 runners from across the country to the Pilliga to experience first-hand the beauty and biodiversity of this forest. Since then, we have brought over 400 people to the Pilliga Forest through our annual 'Pilliga Ultra' event, bringing much-needed tourism to the area. Please see the following pages for some photos from our time in the Pilliga.

The reason people come is the beauty, biodiversity and community of this place - and this project threatens the very lifeblood of this place, and the community. Santos' EIS does not go far enough to minimise the harms this 55km pipeline will have on the surrounding landscape and will cause irreparable, potentially catastrophic damage to an already exploited, vulnerable environment.

The EIS failed to address several key points and areas of concern adequately. These include, but are not limited to:

Yellow Springs Creek and Yellow Springs Dam

In September this year, we enjoyed a delightful picnic lunch at Yellow Springs Dam. This is one of the few reliable water points in that particular area of the Pilliga Forest, and could be recognised as a Groundwater-Dependent Ecosystem and Matters of National Environmental Significance (GDE/MNES). Additionally, it is very concerning that the EIS indicates a well pad on the corner of Beehive Road and the dam access track. This area should be included within a buffer zone, as should Bohena Creek, as per the National Native Title Tribunal conditions.



Gomeri Cultural Heritage Impacts

We have spent many hours with Gomeri custodians, and have been grateful to hear the many stories of culture and connection to the Pilliga Forest. The construction of the pipeline will destroy two known sites of significance and damage an additional four sites. This is unacceptable, and priority must be given to preserving places of significance to the Gomeri people and their culture. In addition, it is beyond dispute that all water resources on traditional Aboriginal land are of significant cultural importance; therefore, Bohena Creek and other ephemeral creeks within the Pilliga must be protected. The EIS shows a complete disregard for cultural heritage and respect for the Gomeri people.

Cumulative Impact (CI)

The EIS did not adequately address the cumulative impact of multiple mining projects on the area, past, present, and foreseeable future, including Whitehaven Coal's Narrabri underground mine, which has been operational since 2012. Impacts include harm to biodiversity, harm to groundwater, increased traffic levels, and increased dust, noise, and vibrations. The Narrabri Underground State 3 Extension Project has a hard border on its south side to the Pilliga Lateral Pipeline, and mines the same coal seam, and should therefore be considered for cumulative impacts.

It is shortsighted for the EIS not to consider the implications of multiple mining activities in one region and the potential larger impacts they may cause, including impacts on threatened species such as the Swift Parrot and Glossy Black Cockatoo, both of which have been recorded in the project area in recent times. For this reason, this project should trigger the precautionary principle, and the cumulative impacts of the proposed Pilliga Lateral Pipeline must be comprehensively considered before proceeding any further.

These are just some of the concerns For Wild Places has regarding the Pilliga Lateral Pipeline proposal. We hope to continue bringing people to this forest for years to come, to witness the beauty and learn about the cultural connections the Gomeri have to this area. To ensure the ongoing health and biodiversity of this forest, we wholeheartedly object to this proposal.

Sincerely,

Hilary McAllister

CEO, For Wild Places Foundation Limited



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Pilliga Ultra, 2025



Kids participating in the Kids Race, Pilliga Ultra 2025



Pilliga Ultra participants coming together to hear about the importance of Gomeroi cultural heritage at the Pilliga Ultra, 2025



Runners setting off for the Pilliga Ultra 50km event. 2025



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Celebrating Gomeroi culture at the 2022 Pilliga Ultra



Runners at the start line of the Pilliga Ultra 2022



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Runners relish the opportunity to explore the beauty of the Pilliga Forest. September 2024



People elated after finishing the Pilliga Ultra 10k, September 2024