

I sincerely urge the Department to adopt the precautionary principle and reject this proposal by SANTOS. Furthermore as this technology has **never** been proven to be safe, but has created problems wherever it has been, I would urge it to be shut down totally throughout NSW until such time as it is proven safe.

While my husband was doing GPS surveys of a nearby properties, about 5 years ago, I went to the Pilliga for the day with a couple of scientists.

I was shocked to see dead zones in the White Box forest where CSG holding ponds had overflowed, cutting a swathe of destruction through the bush. Nothing had returned, nor has it since. This is because of Sulfur Reducing Bacteria I was told by scientists. Drilling for gas has released bacteria and toxic minerals and chemicals that belong underground. Salt has to be disposed of and is not like table salt. There are many similar spills according to locals, dumps and holding/evaporation ponds. There is NO long-term secure management of the legacy after CSG mining for the forest, its creatures or people. There is no current proof that it is safe at all. Mining in State Forests means locking up areas that belong to the people of NSW and excluding them, while handing the keys to a private company who will destroy it in order to carry out their business.

CSG mining produces fugitive emissions and gives off methane, a worse greenhouse gas than CO₂. APRA has publically announced Climate Change is a real risk and as such must be addressed in assessing ALL proposed investments. CSG is a known risk to property, communities, water, environment, health and intergenerational equity. Narrabri council cannot ignore its financial responsibilities to ratepayers now and in the future. Insurance companies will not cover properties hosting CSG. Banks will not lend against properties hosting CSG. Nobody wants to live near it and property values plummet. Sick children, declining health, stress mental health issues and suicide rise impacting on the local host community

Siding Springs Observatory is a WORLD CLASS facility, and an essential part of the worlds scientific and defence community's network. The Australian Taxpayers have invested many millions into this facility. It will be impacted by flaring and light pollution. Why should a cowboy outfit just out to make a profit destroy years of the publics investment and our international standing, the future of scientific research and breakthroughs? This significant facility also is a tourist attraction for Narrabri.

Flaring in a highly volatile Eucalyptus forest when climate change is setting record temperatures (54 continuous days over 35 in Moree) is an unacceptable fire risk to life and property for the people living in Moree Narrabri district and farming in the vicinity of the proposed wells. Flaring is regular, continuous and permitted (apparently) during total fire ban days. The Fire Chief on NSW recently said fires are now unprecedented, and unpredictable, and categorised increasingly as catastrophic. 850 more wells will add methane to the already volatile mix where crown fires explode leaping hundreds of metres ahead of a fire front. This leads to great distress and worry to people impacted and to fire fighters and their families who are on the front line

Water and gas gathering pipelines are required to separate water and gas, and ancillary infrastructure means venting. Volatile compounds are vented and have been known to kill animals on farms hosting such infrastructure on QLD. RO plants cannot remove all of dangerous fine particles such as radiation. Uranium was found in the spill zone in the Pilliga at 20 times safe levels. SANTOS nor its' subsidiary Eastern Star Gas reported this, but a local farmer forced them to the table. So we see they will try to get away with things if they can and cannot be trusted to look after the best interests of the environment or the public's health. CSG companies have proven to the community in QLD where they are already operating, time and time again they cannot be trusted to keep their word, nor to abide by access agreements. Yet they ask us to trust them to carry out unproven processes, which will have long-term impacts

There is so much evidence around the world, and in QLD of the damage to water from CSG mining. Bores have dropped, bubbled over with methane migrating into the aquifer, river or ground water, and been able to be set on fire. The Great artesian basin and the lives of millions of people who depend upon it, and our environment, will be put at risk.

Victoria has banned CSG as have 7 other countries around the world based on this evidence. Set the benchmark as the biggest economy in Australia to take a stand for the future. Don't take the risk. You must protect the people of NSW.