



## **SUBMISSION against THE SANTOS GAS PROJECT IN THE PILLIGA AND ULTIMATELY ELSEWHERE.**

I request that the Santos Narrabri Gas Project be stopped.

Our farm and all those that surround us rely heavily on water from the Great Artesian Basin for household and domestic use (yes, we have rainwater tanks too) and for watering our livestock (yes, we have some dams) and assisting with the production of dry land crops. When it does not rain or we have very little rain, the rainwater tanks get low/empty and the dams dry up, and then we rely entirely on the water from the Great Artesian Basin for our very existence.

I personally am not prepared to agree to the mining of coal seam gas, given the devastation it has caused in other regions in Australia and in various countries around the world. I want to be able (when it rains) to continue to produce food for our nation, and to be able to pass on a productive and environmentally sound farm to future generations of farmers and graziers.

A survey in August 2014 in my district asked all residents over the age of 16 years, "Do you want your road / land coal seam gas free?" The Cryon community (where I live) responded 100% in favour of a gas field FREE area – no-one wants gas fields.

The people of our small communities, being part of the larger community of the North West, are united in our rejection of coal seam gas mining. The vast majority of people here do not want our land de-valued, our pastures, rivers, creeks and underground waterways polluted or potentially our health compromised. We do not want our communities to be decimated as they have been in parts of Queensland.

We are not extremists. We are not radicals. We are farmers, who want to protect our land and our livelihood. We cannot do this without water. I believe if the water in the Great Artesian Basin is contaminated in any way, we will lose our livelihood and our capacity to provide food for Australia and the world.

Even if the water is not affected, I want to be able to run our farm business without interruption or interference from gas wells, pipe lines, or gas field traffic on roads through or past our place.

If Santos is allowed to build those 850 gas wells in the Pilliga, they will then want to build more in other areas. If they are not stopped now, there will be no stopping them.

Again, I request (I would actually prefer to use the word demand, except I am polite) **that the Santos Narrabri Gas Project be stopped.**

While I am at it, I also request that all Petroleum Exploration licences and all Production licences for coal seam gas mining in the North West, and especially in the recharge areas of our Great Artesian Basin, be revoked. This industry needs to be stopped.

Prue Hutchinson

