

TO: NSW GOVERNMENT – PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

SUBMISSION RE: NARRABRI COAL SEAM GAS PROJECT

Date: 15-05-2017

From: Nicky Baruch

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Dear Senators, Ministers, Members, and all concerned,

It is with alarm, regret, frustration and disbelief that I find myself compelled to write to you all regarding the proposed Narrabri CSG project.

The deleterious effects of coal seam gas mining are well documented. I don't think I need go into them here. The likely degradation of our unique and waterways and aquifers is incontrovertible. That public opinion is hugely against this project, and coal seam gas mining in general, is also undeniable.

All manner of scientists, environmental researchers and engineers have provided a swathe of evidence which points to the foolhardiness of proceeding with coal seam gas mining; farmers are angry that their voices are not being heeded; the public is outraged that once again, the desires of the few are taking precedence over the needs, wishes and futures of the many.

The incredible history of our indigenous people is again, and yet again, being run roughshod over - the rights of the Gamilaraay traditional owners and custodians of this land are being cynically traded for the fast buck and the immediate political interests of some of our government members. I, for one, am heartily sick of hearing these stories – has the government learned nothing from our shameful history and treatment of the original Australians? Do human rights count for nothing in our so-called free nation? I know I am not the only one who is disgusted by this.

The documented history of the tragic events which have occurred as a result of leaks and spills from Santos' other projects in the Pilliga region beggars belief. How can such a company with such blatant disregard for the most basic of proper practices and rudimentary health and safety measures be trusted? Given their history and general conduct, why are they even allowed to operate in our country??

That the very future of our land, environment, incredibly diverse plant, water, bird and animal life is being placed at risk by this governments is an absolute disgrace. Do our current government and ministers have absolutely no foresight? Can't they see that the best plan for our ongoing future in this globally threatened time is the safeguarding of our most precious assets – the natural assets, beauty, heritage and resources of our land? These things will be in such short supply on the planet in the very near future. We have them in abundance. They will be a source of incredible revenue, if nothing else, if we manage and safeguard them properly now. This does not mean selling our heritage down the river now – literally.

In light of all this, I must ask - why is this project even being considered?

I urge you to be strong leaders, leaders and decision makers who are not hasty in their actions but who deliberate and consider all the facts being presented; who do not take lightly the responsibility which has been placed in their hands.

All eyes are on you at this time. DO NOT let us down. We will not go away and we will be heard.

Yours respectfully,

Nicky Baruch