

15 May 2017

Formal Objection to
Santos EIS Submission
Application No: SSD 6456
CSG Extraction in the Pilliga

I have been to Narrabri and visited the Pilliga area, and surrounding areas. I have walked through parts of the Pilliga forest, met with local traditional owners and was made well aware how significant this whole region is.

I totally object to Santos's activity in this area and cite below all the reasons why the CSG project must not go ahead.

- Most importantly, this project poses significant risk to our precious water resources, specifically by removing water for CSG extraction and which, through this process, reduces pressure in the recharge areas and while reducing availability of precious water to farmers in the area.
- The creeks are in danger of being polluted and contaminated. Spills have already been recorded, with toxicity wide-spread.
- The local Traditional owners, the Gamilaraay people, reject this project outright as the Pilliga is their country and the forest contains many important cultural sites. They have been fighting this for years and I support them in their fight.
- Farmers oppose CSG. Protests have been seen for years in this whole region through the Lock the Gate Movement, once again fully supported by myself. The community must be heard!
- Wildlife is threatened. The Pilliga is one of 15 nationally listed 'biodiversity hotspots' and I understand that the Santos gasfield as it is proposed, would fragment 95,000 hectares and damage habitat and threaten our already endangered species.
- Climate change is here and now. It is a well-known fact that methane gas, far more powerful than Co2, and the extraction, production and transportation of CSG will make a major contribution to Climate Change. We must mitigate against this.
- How can such a vast project be considered in an area which is so prone to fire; methane stacks burning 24/7 upto 50 metres high even on total fire ban days?

- My personal experience of Santos in Narrabri is of a company which has insinuated itself in the town by seeking influence and favour through the generous contribution to local sporting groups and other community groups, whilst not being honest about the potential threats that CSG extraction will impose on that very same community.
- I have not been convinced by their positive PR, bus tours to a beautifully presented site accompanied by slick presentations and refreshments.
- I do not support CSG extraction in the Pilliga. We must focus on clean, renewable energy, and create an alternative and most viable industry with vast solar and wind farms, a perfect solution for west NSW. This will create employment for many and bring enormous benefit for everyone in the wider community and most importantly the environment.
- NO CSG IN THE PILLIGA!!