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Subject: Submission of Objection to Narrabri Gas Project

I have been to the Chinchilla gas fields on a number of occasions. I have friends who live there. Two of my friends have radioactive material in their water (Independently tested). There is no way the Reverse Osmosis Plant can clean radioactive material out of the water. The residue from that plant is a toxic cocktail. Is there a plan for disposal? There was money raised for testing of peoples health in that area. See <http://lconcernedcitizens.org/archives/2715>

Every single person, except for one, has been found to have chemicals associated with that industry in their bodies.

There was a peer reviewed report done at Southern Cross University on fugitive emissions. The report points to greenhouse gases being released on a huge scale.

There is obviously a lot of flaring and the releasing of toxic carcinogens going into the atmosphere, and that is why people living in the gas fields have a range of symptoms.

There are a number of people who were bought out and had to sign non-disclosure agreements. This is clearly a case of the gas companies not wanting to be transparent. If they had nothing to hide, a non-disclosure would not be part of their settlement.

The 'Today Tonight' programme did their own testing of some Tara landholders tank water and concluded that: "The chemicals tested for all exceeded the *Australian Drinking Water Guidelines* so much so that you would not be consuming that water".

"There have been over 250 identified toxins released from flaring including carcinogens such as benzopyrene, benzene, carbon di-sulphide (CS₂), carbonyl sulphide (COS) and toluene; metals such as mercury, arsenic and chromium; sour gas with H₂S and SO₂; nitrogen oxides (Nix); carbon dioxide (CO₂); and methane (CH₄). *Canadian Public Health Association*.

Based on my knowledge of the Queensland coal seam gas industry, I object to the Narrabri Gas Project and believe it should be rejected. My concerns include:

- * It will extract over 35 billion litres of toxic groundwater, much of it in the first five years. This water will be treated and in the early years will generate tens of thousands of tonnes of salt, for which there is no safe disposal plan.
- * It will clear close to 1,000 hectares of the Pilliga Forest, fragmenting the largest temperate woodland in New South Wales, home to unique wildlife.
- * It will cause significant diversion of water from a recharge aquifer of the Great Artesian Basin, which is a water resource relied upon by rural communities across western NSW.
- * It will lead to large deliberate and fugitive emissions of methane, adding to climate change.
- * It will cause more trauma to the regional Aboriginal community because the area of impact is crucially important to the spiritual, cultural and social life of Gamilaraay people.
- * It is not justified: Santos' own coal seam gas export activities in Queensland have caused gas prices to rise and supply to become unpredictable. NSW should respond to

this by investing in more reliable and ultimately cheaper renewable energy, not by letting Santos inflict more environmental, social and economic harm.

- * It will cause economic upheaval in Narrabri and put agricultural industries at risk, as well as causing light pollution that will ruin the dark night sky needed by the internationally renowned Siding Spring Observatory.
- * Coal seam gas is harmful to health. Neither the NSW Government nor Santos have investigated or dealt with the serious health effects of coal seam gas now appearing in peer reviewed studies world wide.

I urge the Government to reject this project and make the Great Artesian Basin recharge off- limits to gas mining.