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Attn: Executive Director, Resource Assessments  
Department of Planning and Environment  
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Sydney NSW 2001

**This is a submission to the Narrabri Gas EIS.**

I object to this project and believe it should be rejected.

- It will extract over 35 billion litres of 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 that needs to be disposed of.
- It will clear close to 1,000 hectares of the Pilliga, the largest temperate woodland in New South Wales, home to unique wildlife and crucially important to the spiritual, cultural and social life of Gamilaraay people.
- It will cause draw down of a recharge aquifer of the Great Artesian Basin, a water resource relied upon by rural communities across western NSW.
- It is not justified: Santos' own CSG 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 needed by the internationally renowned Siding Spring Observatory.
- CSG 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 research in the United States.

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

Signed,

*Charles Melbourne*