

Submission against Narrabri Gas Project

We oppose the Narrabri Gas Project as proposed by Santos. We have multiple issues with this gas project, most of which have been raised over and over again through submissions to both State and Federal Governments.

What has not been raised previously, is that both the gas industry and the NSW government has failed to take on board any of the findings of the Coal Seam Gas and related inquiries. For example, Santos continues to use the 100 year Global Warming Potential (GPW) figure for methane, rather than the far more apposite 20 year GPW. They have failed to listen to experts in the field of ecology, water, emissions, finance etc. they spruik the release of the water into Bohena Creek as a positive, and while the Bohena waterhole may be a permanent spring, Bohena Creek is not. The uniquely Australian ecosystems along the creek that have evolved to live in ephemeral environments will be wiped out under constant water flow.

Six years ago, activists pointed out the gas shortage was purely artificial due to the looming export industry and that rather than reduce the costs, CSG would increase them as the Eastern gas market would be linked to the international gas market. We were slammed as scaremongering. Yet today, now that the markets have been linked to the international price, we see that our forecasts were correct and gas prices are skyrocketing. And while it is now commonly accepted that the gas supply issue is due to the volume of gas contracted for export, why is the government insisting that increasing supply will resolve the problem. Increasing supply will only result in the increase to the export market.

These are but a few examples that serve to illustrate that Santos have failed to address any of the issues surrounding the impacts of Coal Seam Gas raised in the past 6 years in their EIS. The NSW Government should be embarrassed that Santos could hand in such a volume of paperwork containing such shoddy work and half truths.

NSW does not need Coal Seam Gas, we need to protect our farmland and our great artesian basin. We need to protect the jobs for the future, instead of spruiking the limited construction employment opportunities.

There are alternate energy supplies, there is no alternative for water and food.

Jacinta and Greg