

Mrs Sharon Pierce
63 Explorers Road
Glenbrook 2773
Publishing of details permitted
18th May 2017

Attention: Executive Director, Resources Assessment
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

This is a submission to the Narrabri Gas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

I STRONGLY OBJECT TO THIS PROJECT AND BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE REJECTED. I object because:

- This project is the largest development ever proposed and is 4 times the size of the only other two CSG projects assessed and approved in NSW. It will extend over 95000 hectares however Santos has provided very scant details around location of wells as well as the infrastructure that will run between them. This is a weak proposal and does not appear to have adequate constraints, given the large nature of the project and the potential devastation to the region.
- It will extract over 35 billion metres of toxic ground water, much of it in the first 5 years. The water will be treated and produce tens of thousands of tonnes of salt, for which there is no safe disposal plan.
- **MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT WILL CAUSE SIGNIFICANT DIVERSION OF WATER FROM THE RECHARGE AQUIFER OF THE GREAT ARTESIAN BASIN (GAB).** The Great Artesian Basin is the one of the greatest underground fresh water reservoirs in the world. It occupies approximately 22 % of Australia. Are we saying that a large company with profit as a primary motivator can affect the quality of this resource that occupies an area of over 1.7 million square kilometres? The GAB is Australia's most important water resource, and for more than a century it has sustained much of the pastoral and community needs of a fifth of Australia's landmass. The ramifications of diverting water for other rural communities in Western NSW will be devastating.
- The decisions around the production of CSG in NSW seem to be driven by greed and politics, neither of which will support children of future generations nor help us to feed a ever growing population. Narrabri and surrounding areas are productive farmland and any impact by either contamination or a reduction in the water levels to the Great Artesian Basin recharge aquifer over time is catastrophic and unacceptable to many Australians.
- It will clear close to 1000 hectares of the Pilliga Forest, fragmenting the largest temperate woodland in NSW and home to unique wildlife. We have protected much of this area historically however are now happy to sell out for short-term financial gain. This does not make sense.
- 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 the Gamilaraay people.
- It will cause significant economic upheaval in Narrabri and put agriculture and industries associated with agriculture at risk.
- It will cause light pollution, ruining the unique dark sky required by the Siding Springs 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.

My question to the decision makers within your department is:

- 1.** Are you able to say yes to a project that will have such long term, damaging ramifications to not only to the environment and the Great Artesian Basin but also to surrounding agriculture in Western NSW?
- 2.** What are our long-term responsibilities to future generations of Australians? Will we be leaving our kids a contaminated wasteland?
- 3.** Over the longer term, what will we be feeding future generations of Australians if we permanently affect the productive nature of our farming land by interfering with water resources?
- 4.** Where is the Federal Governments foresight in investing in renewable and cleaner energy options? Have we not learnt anything from Queensland and the United States experience of CSG mining?

I urge the Government to be BRAVE, be RESPONSIBLE, THINK LONG TERM and REJECT this project. Make the Great Artesian Basin and valuable farming land off limits to gas mining.

Sharon Pierce (a concerned Mum and Australian citizen)