

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

My family owns a farm in north western NSW. I would be devastated if Santos Stage 1 gas field at the Pilliga went forward as there are too many environmental, health and social risks.

Put yourself in the position the aboriginal communities who right now have a huge part of their spiritual, cultural and social life at risk of being demolished as the Pilliga forest is an extremely important part of the aboriginal heritage and due to this proposition could very possibly be destroyed. Just ask yourself what would you be feeling if something so crucial to your heritage was at risk of destruction?

This project will extract 35 billion litres of toxic ground water. I believe that this water is going to be treated and in the early years of this project will generate thousands and thousands of tonnes of salt which there is no apparent safe disposal plan for. What is everyone planning to do with it? Throw into the ocean? Leave it just lying around in piles hoping that it will just go away? Guess what, that's not possible because salt isn't biodegradable as it contains carbon and inorganic matter. If these salt mountains are disposed in landfill, particularly areas prone to flood, results of downstream communities, industries and environments would be disastrous.

Coal seam gas can be extremely harmful to human health by contamination of air, agricultural farm land and drinking water. There is no evidence of the government or Santos investigating or dealing with the serious health effects that coal seam gas causes. This could effect so many futures that no one seems to care about.

The light pollution that would be caused by the project would ruin the darkness that locals have gone out of their way to uphold. The dark is crucial for the Siding Spring Observatory to study the stars and make world changing discoveries.

The Pilliga Woodland is the largest and most intact temperate eucalypt woodland in eastern Australia. The project will clear close to 1,000 hectares of the Pilliga. This would be killing trees hundreds of years old. It is home to many unique species struggling to survive, like glossy-black cockatoos, barking owls, eastern pygmy possums, koalas, red-capped robins, regent honeyeaters and the Pilliga mouse. All up, 25 nationally listed and 48 state listed threatened species live and rely on the Pilliga for survival. It is absolutely crucial that we keep the Pilliga safe and this project is a huge threat to the native animals and plants.

It will cause a significant diversion of water from a recharge aquifer of the Great Artesian Basin which is a water source relied on by many rural communities across western NSW. Wouldn't it be awful if you couldn't trust one of your only water sources to be safe?

This why the Narrabri Gas Project must NOT be allowed. I mean.... are we serious? Think of the long term effects. I hope this one small voice will help one big one to say something you need to hear. No CSG mining!

Yours Sincerely,

Ruby Pierce (very concerned 13 year old)