

SUBMISSION RE.: NARRABRI COAL SEAM GAS PROJECT

I am writing to object strenuously to Santos' plans to drill 850 wells in the Pilliga forest and adjacent farmland near Narrabri. I have numerous grounds for objecting to this proposal, some of which are listed below.

1. CSG extraction is destructive to farmland and to the environment. The proposed project will produce 100 tonnes of salt per day at peak production, and Santos plans to bury this in landfill.
2. CSG extraction is also highly destructive to our water supplies. This project is expected to remove 37.5GL of groundwater over the life of the gasfield, and Santos admits there will be a loss of water from the Great Artesian Basin recharge aquifer.
3. In addition to the depletion of the Great Artesian Basin, Santos' gasfield will cause contamination of land, air and groundwater with heavy metals, methane and other chemicals. Some of these are introduced into the ground by the fracking process, some are released by the mining process. To my knowledge there is no way to predict or control the impacts of these chemicals, or how they may interact within the environment. There is also no way of recapturing them.
4. Santos have shown they cannot be trusted to look after the environment. They have poisoned an aquifer at Narrabri with uranium 20 times over safe levels, and there have been over 20 other reported spills and leaks of toxic CSG water.
5. Evidence is mounting worldwide of the negative effects on human health of unconventional gas extraction. These include respiratory illness, water contamination and decreased air quality.
6. Not only is CSG extraction a highly destructive process for the environment and for human and animal health, but it is also not justified. Coal seam gas is expensive to produce, and the yields are low. Australia does not need new gas fields. Solar and storage can now provide cheaper power than coal and gas, and without destroying our precious environment and leaving a long-term toxic legacy.
7. The impact on climate change is another highly important consideration where CSG projects are concerned. CSG extraction is not an environmentally-friendly process, especially when the combined effects of all the above factors are taken into account.

