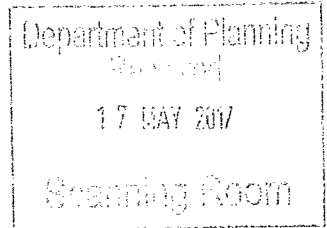


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1st May 2017

Executive Director, Resource Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment
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This is a submission to the Narrabri Gas EIS

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

① The effect on the Great Artesian Basin.

The Great Artesian Basin is a resource of immense worth to present and future civilizations in Australia and should not be damaged by this project. It was also a great resource for past civilizations.

The Pilliga recharge area is one of the very few permanent recharge areas of the Great Artesian Basin. Only 0.2% of the Great Artesian Basin has a recharge of $> 30\text{mm/yr}$ and the Pilliga area is the main area in N.S.W. which has a recharge of $> 30\text{mm/yr}$. No industry should be allowed to jeopardise this resource. Agriculture and the environment need flowing water in natural springs and bores.

② The effect on the Murray Darling Basin

Contamination of both the surface and underground area of the proposed project would have detrimental effects throughout the Murray - Darling Basin Area - on people, the land and agricultural products and environment in general.

③ The effect on Siding Springs Observatory.

Siding Springs Observatory is a world-wide resource and depends on an unpolluted

night sky to operate. There are presently 160 people involved with work at the Siding Springs Observatory. Light pollution from flares from gas wells, as well as dust pollution from extra traffic movements would mean the observatory would cease operation.

④ Effect on the People of the Pilliga Area.

The area is very important to the spiritual, cultural and social life of the Gamilaraay people.

Farmers would be detrimentally affected if their water supplies and land is damaged and they are no longer able to produce crops or maintain grazing land.

The Pilliga is an important area for apiarists. Bees are very sensitive to adverse environmental conditions. Bee keepers are unable to work without bees.

Visitors to the Pilliga would no longer be able to enjoy activities such as bird watching and bush walking ^{and} fishing if the environment is adversely affected.

The ultimate effect of this project would thus lead to a much reduced way of life for people who remain in this area and for those who live in the North West of the State.

⑤ Effect on Employment

Although there would be an initial increase in jobs (1,200) in the construction phase, ultimately this project would lead to a decrease in jobs. There would be a decrease in farming jobs as the land would not be able to be farmed and this would then lead to a decrease in jobs in the agricultural fields such as agronomists and machinery operators and sales people.

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There would be a total loss of jobs for those who work at the Observatory if pollution caused the Siding Springs Observatory to cease operation.

There would be a loss of jobs in tourism if the environment is damaged.

It is estimated that there will be approximately 127 jobs in the gas fields once construction is completed. It is not known if these jobs would be in the Pilliga area or if they would be fly-in fly-out. This number of jobs would not equal the number of jobs lost in farming, agricultural business, retail, health, Education, tourism or astronomy which would be lost if the project proceeds.

The poor record of Santos in Planning for and remediation of land after a CSG project.

Santos has planned for 850 wells but has not specified exactly where they are to be located.

Santos has no plans for the capture of "accidental" emissions of methane.

Although Santos has spent \$17 million on attempted remediation no successful remediation has occurred. The areas of forest decimated by spills of produced waste water are dead zones with no new growth of native vegetation. There have been 7 major spill areas where remediation has not worked. There are a further 30 minor spill areas which have not received any remediation.

I live in the Murray-Darling Basin and do not want to have the Basin contaminated with salt, the salts of heavy metals such as uranium, lead and cadmium. This contamination would have a detrimental effect on the people and the environment in which they live. There is no need for any further CSG plants as there is a world-wide glut of gas. The "probable" shortage of gas on the Eastern Seaboard

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of Australia is not due to a lack of gas it is due to poor marketing of gas.

The Great Artesian Basin and the Murray-Darling Catchment area should not be harmed. ~~by~~
Therefore ~~th~~ I object to ~~the~~ project and believe it should be rejected.

Yours Sincerely

Robyn Bird