

7 May 2017

To:

Executive Director, Resource Assessments  
Department of Planning and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001



Dear Sirs.

**Re: Santos Narrabri Gas Environmental Impact Statement**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this matter.

**I object strongly to this project and recommend that it be rejected.** The reasons for my high level of concern are as follows:

1. Public Health Impacts

Evidence is accumulating with regards to potentially negative health impacts (physical and psychological) of unconventional gas operations, including water contamination and respiratory illnesses. **Adverse health impacts from CSG projects in Queensland have been documented.** For example, the following link leads to a summary of health impacts from CSG mining in Tara, Queensland:

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/quarantine/publications-archive/csg>

As a minimum, the Government MUST insist that Santos conducts a proper health impact assessment which includes genuine community consultation and consideration also to **any potential social impacts** such as increases to cost of living for local people already on low incomes who are not employed by the project.

2. Climate Change

All levels of Government and the corporate sector must meet their obligations under the Paris Climate Agreement to keep global warming under 2 degrees **if we are to avoid the catastrophic effects of climate change.** The burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil, gas) is the largest contributor to climate change. Recent research by the Melbourne Energy Institute shows that **Australia may be dramatically under-estimating the fugitive methane emissions from unconventional gas, including coal seam gas.**

**There is NO justification for new CSG mining when we have an abundance of renewable energy alternatives -** solar, wind, wave, hydro and so on. The Government owes this to future generations to act responsibly and proactively support the transition of the energy sector towards renewables.

3. Groundwater and the Great Artesian Basin

Santos' project is expected to remove 37.5 GL of groundwater over the life of the gas field. It is acknowledged that this will result in a loss of water from the GAB recharge aquifer over time. **Water is our most precious resource.** Without water there is no life.

4. Biodiversity and the Pilliga

The Pilliga is the largest temperate woodland in NSW. The proposed site for this project is the habitat of critically endangered regent honeyeater, the unique Pilliga mouse and koalas which are already in decline in the Pilliga and beyond. **The Government must speak up for these native species who cant speak for themselves.** We must protect this cherished natural and cultural icon from becoming an industrial gasfield.

**I ask that the Government reject this project and make the Great Artesian Basin recharge off-limits to gas mining.**

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