

Geoff Hunter

"Huntly"

Boggabri NSW

To Whom it May Concern

This letter is my formal submission objecting **against** the Narrabri Gas Project being proposed by Santos in the Pilliga, an area which I know quite well and by an industry that I have previously worked.

My reasons for speaking against the project are-

Water-

I have been following the project now here for many years and not one person from Santos can provide a definitive answer on what they will do with the projected 5GL of waste water which will be produced. This is critical to the progress of the project and yet the responses so far are that they are still looking at options. I do not believe that our ground water will be totally unaffected as the intricate nature of underground gas seams and aquifers is not well enough understood and one small mistake or misunderstanding of strata will have devastating effects. I am a small irrigator and I do not believe that if my aquifer is affected that I will have any ability to enforce Santos, a billion dollar company to make good and instead I am sure that it will be treated as a drought or prolonged dry.

Jobs-

The jobs that Santos promote are just not there. The construction phase is said to last 3 years and that is no time at all. Ongoing Santos talk about 200 jobs in production but they also admit the majority of these are in Sydney and Brisbane and of the local jobs these are quite technical and will mostly be fulfilled by specialised staff who will fly in fly out. The community gets left with the rest and some accounts I have seen put this number at 16. My experience with working in the industry showed me there are very few benefits to local businesses as the gas companies require many regulations and a size which local companies cannot often meet and often existing partnerships with bigger businesses mean that they too will often drive in and drive out once the task is completed.

Benefit to the Community-

It's the same all over, Santos will come into town and sponsor the local rugby team and the pool then maybe a few dollars to some local businesses and charities but that is like throwing some crumbs to the seagulls. They are taking away millions of dollars of value in a resource that is in our local community and all we get are a few strategic donations. A few local businesses jump onto the opportunity and ramp up to meet gas company requirements and do quite well for awhile until a downturn and they work dries up. The majority of businesses do not gain any advantage from these developments and often just lose good staff.

Kind Regards

Geoff Hunter