



"Montana"
173 Finlay Rd.
Mullaley NSW 2379



PCU070864

15 May 2017

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



Dear Sir/Madam,

This is a submission to the Narrabri Gas Project Environmental Impact Statement

I wish to lodge my objection to this project and request that approval not be granted.
I am a farmer from the Western Liverpool Plains. I am the third generation of my family to be involved in agriculture and food production.

The Environmental Impact Statement - for a document that took so long to produce, there are many glaring inaccuracies that alone should preclude the project from approval.

Santos state in the first chapter of the EIS...*"the EIS found that the project will have minimal risk of impact on agricultural and domestic water sources...In addition, the project is not located within a major recharge zone of the Great Artesian Basin."*

FACT: The area that Santos' EIS covers is termed the Southern Recharge of the Great Artesian Basin and a major recharge area for the Great Artesian Basin.

The Great Artesian Basin is the largest underground water resource in the world and is the only reliable source of water that 22% of Australia depends on.

Santos' Environmental Impact Statement has ignored the Director General's requirements and ignored the Chief Scientist's recommendations.

Santos is seeking approval for 850 CSG wells but have already revealed to shareholders the 6 large gas fields they intend to develop across 5.7 million hectares of strategically classified highly productive agricultural land and environmentally sensitive areas.

Submission 2

Santos' EIS does not provide maps indicating where the proposed 850 wells will be located. There is no mapping to indicate where roads, pipelines and infrastructure would be located. Detailed mapping must be requested and released before approval of the project is considered. Roads and infrastructure may inhibit natural water flows and their effects must be considered as part of floodplain management in the region.

Santos' CSG project is expected to remove 37.5 gigalitres of groundwater over the life of the gas field. The coal seams lie beneath the Pilliga Sandstone – a major recharge area for the Great Artesian Basin. CSG extraction has caused drawdown in GAB aquifers in QLD.

In October 2014 Santos stated in the Referral to Federal Government Environmental Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act –page 65 quote...." *An assessment of the project indicates the duration and wider geographic extent of depressurisation of groundwater head within the coal seams and adjacent strata will cause a significant impact of the groundwater resources of the Gunnedah – Oxley Basin.*"

Santos have not addressed, nor can they, the safe disposal of the tonnes of salts that will be produced after water from CSG extraction is treated. It is estimated that 115 tonnes of salts will be produced daily and need to be disposed of.

Santos' Social and Health Impacts contained in the EIS is outdated, three years old and totally inadequate. The government must insist that Santos conduct a proper health impact assessment. The most recent studies from QLD should be included. There is mounting evidence that cannot be ignored showing unconventional gas extraction is responsible for serious health issues including respiratory illness and water contamination which lead to serious health impacts.

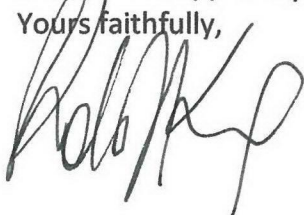
Methane Emissions have been ignored. Recent research by the Melbourne Energy Institute must be included in any EIS assessment. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas, 86 times more powerful than carbon dioxide. Recent studies by the CSIRO only focused on measuring methane emissions from well heads. There has never been an accurate measurement of the escaping methane from the infrastructure spread across QLD.

The Siding Springs Observatory is a world class recognised "dark sky" region. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been invested by over 30 different Australian and overseas institutions. This world class facility is at risk of closure from light pollution from flaring and large infrastructure if Santos' project was approved.

We do not need to risk our water, our health or our ability to produce food for this nation by approving the Santos Narrabri project.

If people have been made aware of serious negative impacts from CSG extraction and despite this approve projects, are those people culpable ?

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rob P', is written over the 'Yours faithfully,' text.