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30 APRIL 2017

Executive Director: Resource Assessments  
Department of Planning and Environment  
New South Wales Government  
G.P.O Box 39  
Sydney, NSW 2001

**SUBMISSION ON THE NARRABRI GAS EIS**

Dear Director,

I am writing to challenge the validity of the Santos Environmental Impact Statement and to urge the NSW Government to turn down their project to build 850 Coal Seam Gas wells in the Pilliga Forest.

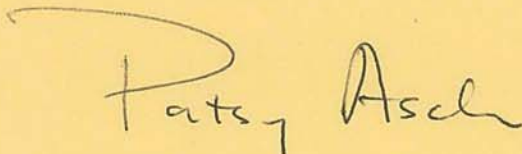
My objections are multiple:

1. The strongest is the lack of detail in the EIS proposal about how to handle the issues raised below. Their proposal is so loose that they can't even say where specific mines will be located. In the past NSW approval of major development projects has always required much greater specificity.
2. The area threatened with severe disruption is important to the spiritual, cultural and social life of the local Gamilaraay people whose attachment to and preservation of the Pilliga goes back thousands of years. I understand many Gamilaraay have strong objections to the proposed mines.
3. The project will extract about 35 billion litres of ground water, much of it toxic.
4. This water will include tens of thousands of tonnes of salt, for which they have outlined no safe disposal plan.
5. Their history of contaminated water dispersal in our river system and leakage from their containment ponds, including nuclear contamination, suggests no guarantee they give that toxic waste will not reach our rivers can be believed.
6. Much of the water will evaporate, water we desperately need both for agriculture and the health of our river system.
7. Perhaps the scariest issue is the possible contamination, as well as depletion, of the water in the Great Artesian Basin, water required for the future of our food security.
8. Fugitive emissions, particularly those from 'burning off', belie the claim that coal seam gas mining doesn't contribute much to global warming.

9. The mines require clearing hundreds of hectares of the Pilliga Forest, the largest temperate woodland in NSW. This, too, contributes to global warming.
10. There is clear evidence that coal seam gas mining produces air pollution. Fine particulates are particularly dangerous to our health.
11. The biodiversity of plants and animals now in the Pilliga is threatened.
12. Throughout Queensland and NSW, wherever there have been large mining projects, low income households can no longer afford to rent or buy necessities because prices rise.
13. While Santos argues it will provide many jobs, these are short term jobs, most during the construction phase.
14. We have many healthier ways to employ people and ensure safe energy for our future.

Each step requires clear planning and in many cases modelling of the potential impact on the health and well being of the region. This is not reflected in their EIS.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Patsy Asch". The signature is written in a cursive style, with a large, sweeping initial "P" that extends to the left.

Patsy Asch