

# Confidential

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date

To the NSW Department of Planning and Environment

This is a submission to the Narrabri Gas Project

I object to this project

Over the years Santos has had many dealings with myself and other members of my family. We are Gomeroi muri who have always lived here. Since time immemorial we have protected the many eco systems that exist upon our clan group areas. We have also defended our territory with fierce aggression and won many wars over other invaders attempting to steal away our lands and violate our most sacred sites-the water the air the soils.

Santos does not have a social licence to operate nor will they get one due to the fact that they have declared literal war on Gomeroi people who oppose the gas industries atrocious annihilation of land. Santos and those who they conduct business dealings with intend on demolishing a most highly significant Gomeroi spiritual location. Those who have been appointed applicants of any native title claim or work within land council regime are employed workers belonging to government and do not in any manner represent the true grassroots sovereigns of Gomeroi Nation.

The project area overlaps vital sacred site belonging to Gomeroi people. Any disturbances to this most sacred site is a direct violation of Gomeroi peoples human rights. Santos has declared war on Gomeroi people our most spiritual of sites should not be disturbed. Under section 116 of the Australian constitution, The commonwealth shall not make law for establishing any religion or for imposing any religion observance, or for prohibiting the free exercise of any religion, and no religion test shall be required as a qualification for any office of public trust under the commonwealth.

The great artesian basin is our most sacred sites. any form of building in this part of our sovereign tribal lands would disturb the Anchant water held in the G.A.B. this makes the Narrabri gas project an uncertain potential risk to the Gomeroi peoples water supply we are not willing to accept at all nor compromise the purity of the artesian basin water supply.

Gomeroi Nation is a matriarchal society, we Yinnar carry lore over our water supply women's lore is above men's lore. our men are to uphold our women's lore. I resent the fact that these self appointed warriors have attempted to conduct business on my behalf without my authority knowing full well that I oppose their actions. I have lost my clan group area because corrupted business people have suppressed my voice and my opinion. I have been bullied by those the company is involved with which I will not tolerate nor am I in any manner afraid of those Santos have sent to bully me into changing my opinion.

In 2014 at your AGM Santos declared war on Gomeroi peoples and I gave you Santos a solemn promise to continue inviting my immediate and extended family members home to where uphold women's lore over water (Narrabri gas project) I extend this invite as Gomeroi Yinnar (a local) to fellow community members who oppose the gas and coal invasion and to the people of the planet who happen to be environmentalists, scientists, educators, educated in all fields and like minded people who love Gomeroi countries many different eco systems along with the many species of animals and plants. these peoples are also in a similar spiritual belief system as Gomeroi muri who are connected spiritually to the land.

As Gomeroi Yinnar I have an obligation to uphold the lore when it comes to the water supply of which the great artesian basin is our only source of water here in a barren dry drought affected land. to interfere with our only

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source of water violates the human rights of everyone here in nsw and further than that as these waters flow all the ways to the ocean.

so many lives depend on the waters coming from the great artesian basin, so many industries downstream of bohena creek where santos is permitted to release its toxic waste produce all of which will be affected by the toxic pollution released by santos into the waterways of northwest nsw.

Uncontrolled methane gas and other such toxic chemicals will be released by santos into the atmosphere daily. high levels of noise and dust pollution will also be generated by this industry, it is inevitable as any disturbances from Pilliga forest will generate thick dust that will cover everything as it travels around the world for generations. santos cannot be certain nor give 110% guarantee that their man made devices will not perish and cause more damage. Nor can it be 110% certain that every bit of santos chemicals used to frack country can be retracted from the basin. this increases the uncertain risk being taken which in turn will affect everyone and not just a few investors.

The reports used by santos in regards to Gomeroi culture and heritage such as the Brigalow belt report do not in any manner represent Gomeroi culture and heritage but more inclined to be a report of how my peoples were forced to work once they gained exemptions from the missions to work. Any business conducted with Gomeroi people in the past and now is null and void and done under duress.

This company cannot co-exist with the environment nor can it co-exist with Gomeroi spiritual locations as it means to clear all in replace for infrastructure which has already in test stages caused over 20 toxic spills that has impacted on the environment upon which it occurred. these dead zones many years later cannot be rehabilitated. these violations to the environment santos received only a \$1500 fine but should have received the full punishment according to national parks and wildlife acts and laws for destruction of aboriginal sites for which the fine is over 1million dollars and or imprisonment.

I have researched this industry and found that the evidence has stacked up against fracking companies the result of their industries has and dose cause devastating long term affects to every eco system that this industry sets up on. I have seen the health problems caused to all forms of life. I have heard the voice of those opposing the industry and have also researched the propaganda santos has released to the public and discovered to many uncertainties to ever approve of the csg gas or coal industry. I have endured the bullies affiliated to santos such as native title and land council and I remain opposed to any business dealings with government bodies such as and including native title and land council.

I refuse to be shut down and bullied to change my opinion by a company I oppose anyone who wishes to violate my spiritual beliefs and the places Gomeroi customs have been practiced since the millennia and before that. I refuse to cede sovereignty and that go with being a custodian. I refuse to acknowledge those who believe they have a right to represent me and members of my family. I oppose those who think they have a right to take control of my free will in the here and now living and in my death am capable of making decisions for myself and my family. I refuse to allow bullies to put at risk the only source of water and under women's lore I will stand my ground.

It is my intension to remain honourable and accountable to Gomeroi people by stand firm opposing santos Narrabri gas project which is only a part of their entire project. I oppose and object to any business dealings conducting by santos in any part of Pilliga state forest. I intend on standing my ground against all business entities who threaten to destroy Gomeroi sites. to force me to give up my spiritual beliefs and the places that my Ancestors' fought to keep is a violation of my human rights. I am opposed to the incursion and violation to my spiritual beliefs and mortified a company can be permitted to destroy Gomeroi sites that protect our only source of water.

Regardless of santos I have committed to continual practice of my Gomeroi spiritual beliefs within the places it has been practiced since time immemorial I will do so with the support of the Australian population who include my Gomeroi family, fellow locals and members of the Australian population who oppose the mining industry come to stand alongside us Gomeroi within Bilaga where we have either set up or are in support of the numerous protest camps that have been set up within Bilaga for the specific reasons of opposing santos work.

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As promised I will see you Santos on the frontlines for Gomeroi Nation where my family and I stand opposing this company and any plan it has made for our country. We refuse to allow a company to irreversibly destroy our water source.

As a Gomeroi custodian, I am obligated to protect the water source that sustains all life upon Gomeroi Nation. As a Gomeroi Yinnar I am obligated to uphold Gomeroi lore over water and protect our most sacred of sites and source of life our water supply.

I can be contacted on the above details to discuss my objections more but I know this falls on deaf ears and that Santos has no value on the survival of Gomeroi peoples as they intend on destroying what is most precious to us.

Kind regards  
Deborah Briggs