

I object to the Santos Pilliga proposal for it's wide-ranging negative impacts and the insubstantial way it is being assessed.

There is a lack of detail in the Santos Environmental Impact Statement. A development of this scale and impact should not be consented to with such little information on exactly where the 850 wells and associated infrastructure will be placed - especially when there is absolutely no market or economic justification for this project. It will create a wasteland for poor outcomes. Santos' own Coal Seam Gas export activities in Queensland have caused gas prices to rise and supply to become unpredictable. NSW should respond to this by investing in more reliable and ultimately cheaper renewable energy, not by letting Santos inflict more environmental, social and economic harm.

I am especially concerned about this project diverting water from a recharge aquifer for the Great Artesian Basin. The GAB is a water resource relied upon by rural communities across western NSW and its underground connectivity is poorly understood. The precautionary principle should be employed toward the GAB water resource and the high degree of caution required is not demonstrated by the Santos proposal.

The Santos proposal is projected to extract over 35 billion litres of toxic groundwater made and tens of thousands of tonnes of salt - for which there is no disposal plan outlined.

I am concerned about nearly 1,000 hectares of the Pilliga Forest being cleared in an already over-cleared landscape. The Santos project would severely fragment the largest temperate woodland in New South Wales and an extremely important habitat area for the unique Pilliga Mouse found nowhere else in the world. This habitat is also important for the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater, and Koala which is already in decline in this area and across NSW. This area woodland is too rare and important to be turned into a gasfield.

I am concerned about the potential climate change impacts of this project due to the increasingly-proven evident emissions of methane produced in such a gas project – as well as the carbon release and abatement reduction from large-scale forest clearing in this area.

The Pilliga is a spiritual, cultural and social icon for Gomeroi/Gamilaraay people. Fragmentation and industrialisation cuts people off from their heritage and connection to country. This project will cause more trauma to the regional Aboriginal community because the area of impact is crucially important to

The air quality assessment fails to include health-damaging fine particulate pollution with a diameter of 2.5 microns or less (known as PM2.5). With diesel generators at each well pad and at the water treatment and gas compression plants, there will be significant PM2.5 emissions. The air quality assessment and greenhouse section also fail to model the likely substantial escape of fugitive methane emissions.

Light pollution from flares, compressor stations and the water treatment plant will ruin the dark sky needed by the internationally renowned Siding Spring Observatory.

I object to this project and hope to see it NOT approved.

Yours sincerely,
Susan Morley