

Attn: Executive Director, Resource Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Michael Mullen
Bathurst NSW

22nd May 2017

RE: Submission to the Narrabri Gas Project EIS.

I object to this project and believe it should be rejected.

I am deeply concerned about the impacts of coal seam gas extraction on groundwater and the resultant impact upon the farming communities of North West NSW. We cannot farm without water. We cannot get insurance to cover us when we sell livestock that have, through no fault of our own, become contaminated from drinking contaminated groundwater from CSG operations.

It will cause economic upheaval in Narrabri and put agricultural industries of the North West Region at risk. The Narrabri Gas Project will drill through a recharge aquifer of the Great Artesian Basin and draw water down from a water resource relied upon by rural communities across western NSW. Santos EIS stated that there is no way to ensure gaswells will not fail, even with world's best practice used.

This Narrabri Gas Project, if approved, would extract over 35 billion litres of salt laden groundwater, much of it in the first five years. This water will be treated and will generate almost 500,000 tonnes of salt waste, for which there is no safe disposal plan. There has already been a number of times that SANTOS operations have resulted in heavy metal pollution, due to inadequate disposal of waste water in recent years, in the Pilliga Forest.

The clearing close to 1,000 hectares of the Pilliga Forest for 425 well pads and the associated infrastructure of pipelines and processing plants will fragment the largest temperate woodland in New South Wales, home to unique wildlife. This land clearing and the entire development of project will cause more trauma to the regional Aboriginal community because the area of impact is crucially important to the spiritual, cultural and social life of Gamilaraay people.

There is clear science that CSG extraction and processing results in large deliberate and emissions of methane from venting and leakage, adding to climate change.

The project is not justified: 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.

Coal seam gas is harmful to health. Neither the NSW Government nor Santos have investigated or dealt with the serious health effects of coal seam gas now appearing in peer-reviewed research in the United States.

I urge the Government to reject this project and make the Great Artesian Basin recharge off-limits to gas mining.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Mullen

Bathurst NSW