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DATE: *Dubbo. 2830*
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ATTN: Executive Director, Resource Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment
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This is a submission to the Narrabri Gas Project EIS

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

- The project will extract over 35 billion litres of groundwater, much of it in the first five years. Gas is produced after groundwater is drained from the Great Artesian Basin at the site of significant recharge. This water resource is relied upon by farmers in rural communities from Dubbo to the Queensland border. Why put agriculture and associated regional jobs at risk, by lowering the water table on a regional level?
- The produced water is highly saline with dissolved mineral salts and /or organic compounds. There is no known method to re-use the tens of thousands of tonnes of salt. There is no safe disposal method for this salt. The use of reverse osmosis for beneficial re-use of water is questionable and I object to this water being discharged into the Bohen Creek entering the Murray Darling Basin. Extreme cases of sodic soil pollution and vegetation die back has already occurred in 2001, and remains a dead zone.
- The project will clear 850 drill sites, close to 1,000 hectares of the largest temperate woodland in New South Wales, home to unique wildlife such as the koala and threatened plant and bird species.
- Methane emissions from Gas wells, pipelines flares and infrastructure will lead to increased methane emissions above the current baseline and contribute to climate change, resulting in increased regional bushfires and flooding, as we have seen in NSW in 2017.
- The fossil fuel project has no public interest justification, and no social licence with communities who use the Pilliga Forest. Our Prime Minister met with gas producers to insist that current gas projects put aside gas for local industry. Santos has sold our gas offshore and will do so again for company profits not the national interest.
- Dubbo and Narromine Solar Farms are in progress, Dubbo had one of the highest uptake of solar panels on homes, public buildings and industry. We are moving from fossil fuels to renewables at a rapid rate and do not need a risky industry impacting on the people who use Dubbo as a regional centre.
- The project will cause light interference impacting on the international work conducted by astronomers at the Siding Springs complex. This area is Australia's first Dark Sky Park. This status will be lost by light interference from flaring gas infrastructure.
- The project will cause harm to the population living in the area including the fly in fly out workforce. The harm is physical and psychological and documented in peer reviewed literature.
- Aboriginal culture is threatened by this project, which if approved to enter the production phase will cause more trauma to the Traditional Owners.

M. Evans

SIGNED: