

Name: Greg Murray

Address: 26 Earlsfield Rd, Hampton, Vic

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

**This is a submission to the Narrabri Gas EIS.**

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

I grew up in Narrabri and fear that this project will leave a long term adverse environmental legacy for what will be a modest short term gain for Santos' shareholders and employees.

Environment

- All gas projects have fugitive releases of gas. Overwhelmingly this is methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change methane has a global warming potential 34 times that of CO<sub>2</sub>. Santos proposes hundreds of wells and all of these will be releasing methane into the atmosphere.
- Once into the gas distribution network there are further methane emissions. I work for a company that uses gas and we are charged a factor on top of our metered gas use. This factor is called Unaccounted for Gas (UAFG) and is an additional 5.4% on our bill. This is gas that supposedly is put into the network but is lost before it reaches us, the customer.
- The project will extract over 35 billion litres of groundwater bringing with it tens of thousands of tonnes of salt that needs to be disposed of. This is in the headwaters of the Murray-Darling basin which is already struggling with salinity.
- It will cause draw down of a recharge aquifer of the Great Artesian Basin, a water resource relied upon by rural communities across western NSW.
- There is the potential for contamination of the aquifer by the drilling activities. There is clear evidence that coal seam gas activities in Queensland are causing problems with groundwater.

Economy

- Despite what the gas companies may say, there is little economic benefit to Australia from opening up these expensive unconventional gas reserves. The only winners are the gas companies themselves. Australia was comfortably supplied by conventional gas sources until the gas companies built the huge LNG export terminals. These conventional gas sources were cheap by international standards and helped give Australian businesses a competitive advantage. We now find ourselves in the ridiculous situation of having our energy prices at least double, which happily for companies like Santos has now made their environmentally damaging CSG projects economically viable without actually offering the Australian people the prospect of cheap energy again.

Please reject this project. I see only Santos and a small number of winners in the short term who will leave the community to deal with a long term legacy.

Signed,

Greg Murray