

20th May 2017

Executive Director, Resource Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001.

SUBMISSION RE NARRABRI GAS PROJECT

I wish to state very clearly that I oppose this project.

The current supposed crisis with the supply of gas has been caused solely by the government approvals for major largely foreign-owned companies to establish export facilities for LNG. There is adequate supply. The problem is that the government has permitted too much to be exported. Increasing the supply by developing the Narrabri project will have zero effect on prices which will now relate to world prices.

The environmental impact statement is ridiculously large but does not even tell me where the proposed wells will be located. Instead they say that the locations of wells be will decided in the future using a "Field Development Protocol". The document was not produced by independent consultants. It was paid for by Santos and therefore will contain only information that supports the Santos objective.

I speak frequently with scientists who are familiar with the impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem function resulting from fragmentation and loss of native landscape. This proposal covers 95,000ha and requires clearing of 1,000ha. This will inevitably result in the fragmentation and degrading of the Pilliga forests.

I believe that the true long term impacts of the loss of groundwater cannot possibly be understood at this time. There are frequent reports of issues with groundwater from the CSG operations in Queensland. It is my strong recommendation that the *Precautionary Principle* be applied. The water removed is very saline and this in turn will produce vast quantities of salt. The EIS suggests that this salt will finish up in landfill, hardly an appropriate solution.

Methane emissions are another major issue. I have read reports suggesting that current estimates of methane emissions are significantly understated. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, much worse than carbon dioxide. It is highly likely that the impact of methane emissions, including fugitive methane, is sufficient to offset the claimed climate change benefits from the use of gas instead of coal.

The above is only a very brief summary of my concerns. I urge the government to refuse this application to develop the Narrabri Gas Project. By so doing, they will be serving the people of NSW very well.

Yours sincerely



Sandra Shuetrim