

PO Box 962 Armidale NSW 2350 12 May 2017

Attn: Executive Director, Resource Assessments Department of Planning and Environment GPO Box 39 Sydney NSW 2001 Department of Planning Received 2.2 MAY 2017 Seanning Room

This is a submission to the Narrabri Gas EIS.

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

- It will extract over 35 billion litres of toxic groundwater, much of it in the first five years. This water will be treated and in the early years will generate tens of thousands of tonnes of salt, for which there is no safe disposal plan.
- It will clear close to 1,000 hectares of the Pilliga Forest, fragmenting the largest temperate woodland in New South Wales, home to unique wildlife. I live in a rural area of NSW and every day see the decline in the health and extent of our natural landscape. Our family recently drove through the north west slopes and plains and was horrified by the loss and poor health of natural habitat and landscape. So very little remains as modern broad acre farming continues to sweep so much away in its path:



The above satellite image displays vividly the importance of the few remaining significant stands of natural habitat on the north west slopes and plains, the Pilliga and the areas protected by other national parks, Kaputar, Warrumbungles and Timmallallie. Few wildlife corridors remain, with habitat on private or leased land being removed, degraded or killed by "modern" farming practice.

The further loss of vegetation across our State will not only harm wildlife. It will make it much harder for communities to cope with the increasing heat

associated with climate change and will undermine your Government's goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

- It will cause significant diversion of water from a recharge aquifer of the Great Artesian Basin, which is a water resource relied upon by rural communities across western NSW.
- It will add to climate change through large deliberate and fugitive methane emissions.
- It will cause trauma to the regional Aboriginal community because the area of impact is crucially important to the spiritual, cultural and social life of Gamilaraay people.
- It is not justified: Santos' own 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.
- It will cause economic upheaval in Narrabri and put agricultural industries at risk, as well as causing light pollution that will ruin the dark night sky needed by the internationally renowned Siding Spring Observatory.
- Coal seam gas is harmful to health. Neither the NSW Government nor Santos have dealt with the serious health effects appearing in peer-reviewed research in the U.S.

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

I have noted that under the former Premier's administration, the NSW Government released a Gas Plan and a Renewable Energy Action Plan. This Government needs to develop, in consultation with its citizens, a comprehensive, transparent and sustainable energy plan, which considers all energy sources and how they will meet NSW's future energy requirements while also sustaining the health of our citizens and our agricultural and natural environments. Without such a comprehensive plan, any assessment of energy development applications, including this one, must be piecemeal and lacking state-wide context.

Dianne Beatty