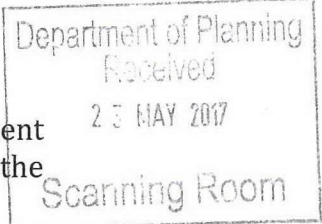


SECRETARY PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT NSW
Level 22, 320 Pitt St, Sydney 2000
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001



Submission regarding Narrabri Gas Project EIS

Unconventional gas mining is an inherently dangerous, and inevitably contaminating and polluting business. The United Nations Environment Programme has stated that much, and that it is impossible to regulate the unconventional gas industry into safety.



'UG exploitation and production may have unavoidable environmental impacts. Some risks result if the technology is not used adequately, but others will occur despite proper use of technology. UG production has the potential to generate considerable GHG emissions, can strain water resources, result in water contamination, may have negative impacts on public health (through air and soil contaminants; noise pollution), on biodiversity (through land clearance), food supply (through competition for land and water resources), as well as on soil (pollution, crusting).'

- UNEP Global Environmental Alert System 2012

I have lived in the area for over forty years and am appalled at the blatant lack of concern Santos' EIS displays towards the human community and the environment, in both the short and long term. Santos' EIS fails to acknowledge real risks inherent to the industry, fails to address the documented damage that has already occurred in the exploratory phase of the Narrabri project and in their other Australian gasfields, and provides no convincing solutions for the disposal of toxic waste. I don't have expert scientific knowledge, but I do have enough training in critical analysis to read the EIS document as evasive, vague, incomplete and downright wrong in places. I have a commitment to keeping abreast of UG issues as they emerge from the American experience (some many more years older than the Australian), and have been a witness to the environmental damage in the Pilliga. I have followed the reports of health experts examining the experiences of Australians living in or near gasfields, and have travelled to existing Queensland gasfields and to communities in their vicinity to see for myself the social cost of the boom and bust cycle that unconventional gas mining imposes.

Any one of the areas supposedly addressed in the EIS is cause for concern, but

I recommend that Santos be required

- 14) to give figures for the **increase** in light pollution the **total** of their activities will contribute, including an estimate for the further future gasfields in the area which Santos have indicated to their shareholders will follow on from approval of the Narrabri Project

I recommend that Santos be required

15) to complete and (re)submit a **full and proper** Health Impact Assessment, which necessarily takes into account peer reviewed literature, employs convincing rigorous methodology and independent verification. The quantity and quality of data on health issues linked to the industry is now such that Santos cannot be allowed to gloss over, ignore or misrepresent the many issues: the extent of fugitive methane leakage along the entire system, from well to liquification plant or user end point; the role of methane in ground level ozone; the increased risks to pregnant women and young children; the uncertainty around disposal of environmental toxins, from waste water to residue of reverse osmosis plant; the lack of data about the exact composition of "Narrabri" gas; the economics of reverse osmosis and how that affects degrees of particulate filtering.

I recommend that Santos be required to relinquish their licence forthwith.

Dr. Laura Hartley
Colonsay Farm
939 Timor Road,
Coonabarabran NSW 2357

17/05/2017

