

Attn: Executive Director, Resource Assessments

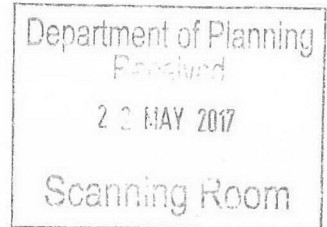
Department of Planning and Environment

GPO Box 39

Sydney NSW 2001



2nd May 2017



SUBMISSION RE. THE NARRABRI GAS EIS

I strongly object to this project and believe it should be prevented.

Santos' proposed coal seam gas mining project is a short-term and faulty solution to our population's need for energy sources. The risks of irreversible damage and the planned costs to our forests, animals and water are too high.

The project is expected to only last 20 years - then what? The same energy quandary will again present itself.

We need to be pursuing long-term, earth-friendly and socially acceptable solutions – not damaging coal seam gas extraction projects. We need to be looking at solar panels on every home and building. We need to be ensuring all buildings are designed in accordance with passive solar principles. We need to invest in and lead the way in new, admirable energy creation and storage methods – there are so many other, more effective, options.

Key points of concern about Santos' proposal to mine the Pilliga region for gas include:

- Santos has failed to plan for the safe disposal of the many thousands of tonnes of salt that will be a by-product of treating 35 billion litres of groundwater.
- The Pilliga Forest is not being preserved or positively utilised (eg. tourism) as it should. Rather, Santos propose to clear almost 1000 hectares of this precious, natural landscape. The Government needs to instead care for its (limited) wild places.
- Local farmers and industries in Narrabri will be placed at serious risk of economic hardship. The majority of local residents are opposed to gas mining in their region.
- Research conducted in the U.S. shows that coal seam gas causes serious health problems.
- Santos' coal seam gas export activities in QLD have actually caused gas prices to rise and supply to become inconsistent. NSW should learn from this, instead of enabling Santos to cause more environmental, social and economic damage in our state.
- Large amounts of methane gas will be released into our air, contributing further to the problem of climate change.
- The region's indigenous people are being disrespected by Santos, since the Pilliga holds great cultural and spiritual significance to them.

Let's be proud of and protective of our country, not plunder it. Let's adopt innovative ways of thinking and of sustaining ourselves, not stay stuck in out-dated, dead-end paradigms. I urge the Government to protect our state against gas mining and reject Santos' proposed project.

Sincerely,

Beth MacDonald (Boronia Park, NSW 2110)

B. MacDonald