Winterthur Pty Limited

[redacted]

Santos objection

18 May 2017.

Executive Director, Resource Assessments,

Department of Planning and Environment,

GPO Box 39,

Sydney NSW 2001. Sent by email.

Dear Sir,

Re-Objection to Narrabri Coal Seam Gas project proposed by Santos.

I am writing to object to this project which I believe is not justified, will wreak havoc on the environment and injuriously affect the people of Narrabri Shire.

Winterthur Pty Limited is the registered proprietor of "Bonny Rigg" at Quirindi and, in conjunction with an associated company, Assets in Action Pty Ltd is the registered proprietor of " Wyallia" at Nundle.

The principal activities on both properties is the breeding and growing out of beef cattle together with the necessary planting of forage crops and pastures. Bonny Rigg has been owned for 34 years and Wyallia for 10 years. We employ three staff.

At the present time there is 2600 cattle spread over the two properties. Both properties are dependent on bore water for stock watering which, of course, is a critical resource and without adequate supplies our operations would have to be drastically reduced to the point of the business being rendered not viable.

My concerns about the project are:

1. Lack of detail. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) does not include the location of the 850 proposed wells and any detail about infrastructure associated there with. Approval using a "Field Development Protocol" is not appropriate in the circumstances.

2. Economic justification. The additional gas intended to be produced is so expensive and the yield so low that Santos must seek a higher price for this product which in the current Australian gas market cannot be obtained.

3. Groundwater. The EIS states that 37.5GL of groundwater will be removed from the Great Artesian Basin over the life of the project because the coal seam needs to be do watered to release the gas. It will take eons for this quantity of water to be replaced and, in the centuries ahead the grazing and agricultural enterprises dependent upon the Basin will suffer; including our own activities.

4. Disposal of salt. To dispose of the huge quantities of salt that will be produced will, in itself, create an environmental nightmare. The only safe repository is the Pacific Ocean. Landfill should never be considered.

5. Cultural heritage. I understand that the Pilliga Forest has spiritual significance to Australia's original inhabitants.

6. Biodiversity within the Pilliga Forest. The EIS refers to clearing of 1000 ha which will impact upon the native fauna including the Regent Honeyeater, koalas and the Pilliga Mouse. A comprehensive ecological impact assessment will, in my opinion, show that the clearing of such a large and fragmented area should not occur.

7. Health impact. Studies in the United States of America provide evidence, time after time, of the health damage caused by unconventional gas operations resulting from water and air contamination. In addition, I understand that some 425 diesel generators will be required producing significant PM2.5 emissions.

8. Siding Spring Observatory. This world-class facility was located in our area because of the low level human created lighting. In fact, street lighting in many towns in the vicinity of the Observatory, including Quirindi, are subject to restriction for this simple reason. Light pollution from flares – another 850 light sources – could spell the effective end of the work at the Observatory.

While environmentally sound developments within our State should be encouraged this project is not one and must be rejected.

Yours faithfully,

E Craig Miller.

Director.