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NSW Department of Planning and The environment.
narrabrigas@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Department;

Re: Narrabri Gas Project

The Norwood Resource Incorporated (TNR) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Narrabri Gas Project (NGP).

The Norwood Resource is a not for profit organisation registered with the ACNC, and we submit the following to the Department for its deliberations into the matter of the Narrabri Gas Project (NGP) in Narrabri environs, NSW.

About This Submission

TNR's submission is as follows-

1. This front letter
2. Attachment A – Do Protestors tell you the truth and are their protests based on Facts?? (TNR Paper, updated 5 February 2015)

The Norwood Resource (TNR) evolved from an informal monthly gathering of retired, semi-retired and independent oil and gas industry professionals who had become increasingly dismayed about the way these industries were being misrepresented in the media. Assertions that these industries impact poorly on the environment come from ill-informed and often untrue statements in the press with scant reference to any facts. The Norwood Resource team has first-hand knowledge about many facets of the oil and gas industries and can assemble, review and provide a definitive assessment of the relevant facts.

The Norwood Resource was formally incorporated as a not-for-profit entity and registered with the ACNC in late 2013.

Our mission:

1. To assemble and disseminate factual, scientific and verifiable information about the environmental impacts of oil and gas (petroleum) exploration and production to the media and the community at large.
2. To actively challenge and counter misinformation about the impacts of oil and gas (petroleum) exploration and production on the environment.

3. To inform key media personnel about the environmental regulations under which the energy industries operate and the care with which they research and maintain best environmental practices.
4. To establish and maintain a centre of expertise about the oil and gas (petroleum) exploration and production industries and best practice environmental protection knowledge and outcomes.

Web: <http://thenorwoodresource.org.au/>

The Norwood Resource (TNR) has over the last 3 years or so devoted much of its energies to researching various claims about the impact of oil & gas exploration and developments on the environment, as well as countering misinformation about the impacts of the oil & gas industry on the environment. On our website there are numerous papers in relation to various 'issues' relating to oil & gas exploration and production (E&P), as well as papers relating to how essential oil & gas and the products derived from them are to our everyday lives and economy.

1 Environmental Non Government Organisations (eNGOs)

We have noted over the last few years an increasing number of so called environmental non Government organisations (eNGOs) which seem to pursue their ideological agenda's (which are mainly anti fossil fuel agenda's) through the manufacture, proliferation and dissemination into the mainstream media and social media of misinformation, misrepresentation of facts, myths, half truths, pseudo science, scary stories, manufactured circumstances and incidents as well as lies.

We have in the past examined some of these claims and assertions from eNGOs and their representatives, and found that misrepresentation, misinformation and the manufacture of scary stories to be the order of the day. It appears ethics is not high on their mission statements.

Many of the eNGOs are totally anti fossil fuels (oil & gas and coal). A new society and economy without fossil fuels is just not practical now or into the foreseeable future, as there are no viable alternatives currently in existence, nor sanctioned projects to replace what we have to fuel our economy today. Indeed it would be negligent, irresponsible and criminal to cease using fossil fuels immediately as some of the eNGOs clamour for, as it would immediately condemn to death large portions of our community, since there would be no petrol or diesel for transport (therefore no food for cities), no plastic for computers, mobile phones etc. Many of the aims of these eNGOs which are so vocal are just irresponsible and nonsensical and have no practical application, and yet they manage to convince many people to follow their 'impossible dreams'.

TNR has reviewed a cross section of these claims and loose assertions manufactured and perpetuated by some of the more vocal eNGOs. Our Attachment A "Do Protestors tell you the truth and are their protests based on Facts?? (TNR Paper, updated 5 February 2015)" cuts to the ethics and morals of some of these eNGOs and their representatives. The continual spreading of misinformation, myths and lies by some eNGOs appears in the social media, and then into mainstream media and then as a consequence, the general public pick up snippets and respond accordingly in that they are against unconventional gas and fracking since it has 'bad press' and nothing more, since invariably the facts do not verify the lies and myths, but the damage is done.

While we support a transition to a lower emission future, we recognise that this transition needs a strategy to replace what the world currently uses for fuel (oil & gas), and the products manufactured from them (plastic, fertiliser, bitumen roads, pharmaceuticals etc etc) with viable easily obtainable alternatives. Simply stating renewables will replace fossil fuels is not a strategy, it is just a hopeful chant of hollow words without a viable alternative which has widespread practical application, shovel ready to spread around the world, to just that – replace fossil fuels.

We note that there is almost a total disconnect from what the anti fossil fuel activists want and what is available on a practical basis, such that the anti fossil fuel activists demands are meaningless. However, we do note that the scare and fear campaigns are generally cunningly conceived to create the most amount of fear they can in local communities. This is particularly so when there is a combination of activist forces come into a locality, picking up strong local supporters from the 'Not in My Backyard' (NIMBY's) cohort.

Our Attachment A – is a little dated, however, we include this to give balance about the general veracity of the anti fossil fuel campaigners claims and rhetoric which we have found has not changed significantly over the last few years, although the perceived catastrophe might alter. For example, a few years ago, there was a scare campaign of relating fracking to cancer. Due to the lack of evidence, the activists moved onto fracking and water. Virtually all credible research and formal inquiries (recently the SA Inquiry) have concluded there is no evidence to support such claims. The activist move onto gas and health, again there is a distinct lack of credible research supporting such claims. This is a pattern the anti fossil fuel activists use to confuse, delay, question and demonise an industry that has operated without any of these so called scare stories for almost 100 years in Australia.

2 The Narrabri Gas Project (NGP)

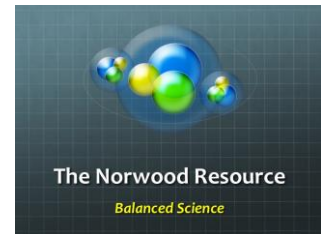
In regard to the NGP, TNR is of the view that more gas and more sources of gas is urgently required on the east coast of Australia, and we have been a strong supporter for responsible gas development in Australia.

There are some calls from the anti gas activists saying there is no gas shortage on the east coast. Our view is quite simple, based on the dynamics of supply and demand, and when the gas price surges, and consumers can't get long term supply contracts there is a supply issue. **This is the stark evidence (regardless of the argument about the allocation of the gas between domestic use and export) that there is a chronic shortage of gas supply on the east coast.**

TNR supports the NGP for the following reasons:

Importance of gas in NSW.

- A reliable and affordable gas supply is critical to our way of life, as evidenced by the gas supply crisis we are now experiencing on the East Coast of Australia.
- In NSW more than 1 million homes 33,000 businesses and the jobs of more than 300,000 workers rely on an affordable and secure supply of natural gas. Yet NSW imports 95% of its gas supply from interstate.
- Industry groups and the Federal Government have been calling for new gas projects to support jobs, manufacturing and large scale production – **The Narrabri Gas Project can deliver just that.**



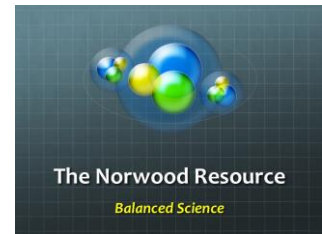
- The NGP could supply up to 50% NSW gas demand and deliver significant benefits to the local community and the state, including up to \$120 million for a local Community Fund, and up to \$1.2 billion in royalties for the State.
- The Project will also create up to 1300 jobs during construction and 200 ongoing positions.
- Natural gas has a vital role to play in delivering energy security, whilst having the additional benefit of being 50% cleaner than coal resulting in a significant reduction in carbon emissions.
- The development of new natural gas resources is crucial in increasing the gas supply to the East Coast and assisting Australia's move towards a clean energy future.

Narrabri is an ideal place for a gas project and Santos has the depth of experience to develop it.

- Santos is an Australian company with a 60 year history of operating safely and sustainably, as evidenced by its exploration and production activities in the Cooper Basin, where local beef stations have achieved and retain organic certification for their beef, which demonstrates the agricultural and the gas industry can mutually coexist.
- The majority of the project area is in a section of the Pilliga which, after a thorough ecological review has been set aside by the NSW Government for logging and extractive industries.
- The Project area does not include National Parks or Nature Reserves.
- The Project area does not contain strategic agriculture land as mapped by the NSW Government. Santos has stated it will only drill on private land with landholder agreement.
- The local geology ensures that there is no requirement to use hydraulic fracturing technology (fracking) in the NGP, and Santos has stated it does not require the use of fracking to meet its delivery target projections for gas supply.
- There is quite a strong local base for the NGP, and there are many employment and social benefits which could accrue to the local Community.

The EIS has concluded the Narrabri Gas Project can be developed safely with minimal and manageable risk to the environment.

- The EIS is a very comprehensive document that includes extensive studies and modelling on the environment in the Project area, including studies on water, flora, fauna, soil, noise, air quality and cultural heritage.
- The Proponent has drawn upon more than 13,000 hours of on ground environmental surveys, carried out by environmental scientists who are experts in their fields, and the information in the EIS will be the basis to prepare detailed management and mitigation plans for the Project.
- The EIS demonstrates an environmentally sensitive plan which will allow the NGP to proceed delivering much needed natural gas for the NSW market safely.
- The EIS concluded:
 - Water available to farmers and the community will be unaffected
 - Drilling will be carried out safely using the NSW Well Integrity Code of Practice which has been reviewed by the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer
 - Significant impacts on threatened and endangered flora and fauna will be avoided
 - Aboriginal cultural heritage sites will be protected
 - The Project will coexist with current land uses including agriculture and forestry.



The above is a compelling endorsement for the NGP, and as such The Norwood Resource strongly supports the development of the NGP, providing it complies with the respective laws and planning and environmental regulations which apply within the State of NSW and Australia from time to time.

TNR requests that The Department rely upon the facts and the science and allow common sense to prevail in its analysis of the Narrabri Gas Project and not be distracted about non factual ideological arguments and scare stories.

Yours sincerely

Bruce Holland
Secretary
The Norwood Resource

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