

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-04-06/nsw-csg-project-sparks-fierce-debate-over-energy-future/8418102>

1 Leaking Holding Pond

In December 2011, Santos received an official warning over high levels of ammonia discharged in a spill of produced water in the Pilliga Forest.

Later in February 2014, [Santos was fined by authorities after unusual levels of aluminium, arsenic, barium, boron, lead, nickel and uranium were found](#) in a small aquifer near a holding pond.

A leaky dam liner, constructed by a previous operator Eastern Star Gas, was the trigger of this soil contamination.

2 Salt in brine from waste water

Along with produced water, over 430,000 tonnes of salt brines — a waste by-product of its water treatment — is expected to be produced during the life of the project.

When production peaks — that is as much as two-and-a-half B-double truckloads a day.

Peter Mitchely from Santos says much of the salt brine will be reused by industrial customers, such as paint manufacturers. But in its EIS it also proposes a disposal option in yet-to-be specified landfills.

"Our salt is classified, it has been classified as general waste by the authorities, it can go to any of the registered landfill sites that can accept general waste. There are many of those across Australia, there are several in New South Wales, there are several in Queensland," he said.

Lock-the-Gate campaigner Georgina Woods said salt disposal was an emerging issue in Queensland's CSG debate, and that Santos should provide further detail about where brines would be buried.

"Landfill sites leach. That's the risk that the salt will leach out of the ground into the groundwater, and that's the risk to agriculture. It's a major concern for the land-holders," she said.