

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to make a submission on the Narrabri Gas Project.

I am happy for my name and submission to be included on your website.

I object to the proposed Narrabri Gas Project and ask the Independent Planning Commission to reject this project. My concerns are listed below.

Climate impact

If we are to have any hope of keeping global warming below 2°C we must keep gas in the ground.

This gas field will release at least 94.2 million tonnes of potent climate pollution during mining and when the gas is burned for energy, and fugitive methane emissions are likely to be underestimated.

Existing coal and gas fields will push the world past globally agreed temperature goals. There is no room, or need, for more. The rapid development of battery storage technology makes renewable energy sources backed by batteries a cheaper, cleaner option than developing more gas.

New gas production is an unnecessary and dangerous step in Australia's efforts to tackle climate change. Australia is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts like bushfires, drought and extreme heat. More gas extraction increases our exposure to climate risks.

Threatened species

This project will endanger koalas and two rare and iconic bird species - the swift parrot and the regent honeyeater.

The swift parrot is critically endangered. The total swift parrot population is estimated to be no more than 1000 pairs. Habitat loss is a contributing factor in the decline of this species.

The regent honeyeater has become an icon for birdwatchers in NSW. It is a threatened woodland species whose conservation will benefit a large suite of other threatened and declining woodland fauna.

There have been koala sightings in the Pilliga East State Forest. The Western Woodlands Alliance classifies that state forest as a priority area for koala conservation. Koala skulls have been discovered in the project area, further evidence of their presence.

Poison and deplete groundwater

Santos will remove 1.5 gigalitres of water per year by drilling 850 wells through the Pilliga sandstone aquifer (part of the Great Artesian Basin) and into the coal seams beneath.

This removal will depressurise the underground water sources, as well as threaten the recharge of the Great Artesian Basin that they feed.

This project will bring ancient, contaminated coal seam water to the surface.

The water from the coal seams has been in contact with coal for hundreds of thousands of years — perhaps longer — and has absorbed elements that could be harmful if they leak into the irrigation water in the aquifers.

Extracted water from the coal seams may contaminate the Great Artesian Basin aquifer. Local communities rely on this supply for water for stock, domestic and irrigation purposes.

No need for more gas

Almost all gas produced in eastern Australia is exported via the LNG terminals at Gladstone. The small amount of expensively produced gas from the project will have negligible impact on domestic prices or supply.

In order to actually protect Australian businesses and households from gas supply shortages, governments should help them to get off gas by promoting electrification, such as heat pumps for hot water, reverse-cycle air conditioning for space heating and induction cooktops.

I am happy for my name and submission to be included on your website.

I object to the proposed Narrabri Gas Project and ask the Independent Planning Commission to reject this project. My concerns are listed below.

For these reasons I strongly object to the Narrabri Gas Project. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I look forward to hearing from you in regards to this submission.