

The Narrabri Gas Project Working in the Pilliga

Santos
We have the energy.

More than half our Narrabri Gas Project operations will be located in the Pilliga.

With the appropriate environmental protections in place we believe specific areas of the Pilliga can be used for the development of a natural gas project while protecting the area's unique environment.

Working in the Pilliga

- + Our activities are focussed in parts of the Pilliga designated for the development of natural gas and other industries
- + At full production, our activities will cover less than half a percent of the Pilliga's 500,000 hectares
- + Access will be via agreement with NSW Forestry Corporation
- + We will work towards an agreement with the Gomeroi Native Title claimants
- + Government assessment and approval will include consideration of impacts on native habitat and water resources
- + When a well is decommissioned the land is returned to its original state



A gas well in the Pilliga

About the Pilliga

- + The Pilliga is an area of forest and woodland covering around 500,000 hectares between the towns of Narrabri and Coonabarabran in north west NSW.
- + The Pilliga has a long history as a working forest. There are more than 5,000 km of existing roads, forest tracks, fire breaks and other easements throughout the Pilliga. Much of the Pilliga has been accessed by the timber industry for sleeper cutting and cypress harvesting. Other sections have been used for sheep and cattle grazing. These activities, along with regular wildfires and the introduction of invasive species, have modified the Pilliga over time and influenced its ecology.
- + In 2005, the NSW Government completed a comprehensive review of land use in the Pilliga. A key outcome of the Brigalow and Nandewar Bioregions regional assessment resulted in around 240,000 hectares, or almost half of the Pilliga, being protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act. Other parts of the Pilliga were dedicated as State Forest, and set aside for the purposes of “forestry, recreation and mineral extraction”. One of the strategic aims for the areas zoned State Forest was to “provide for exploration, mining, petroleum production and extractive industry²”. This is the section of the Pilliga where we are seeking to work.

² NSW Government – Brigalow and Nandewar Community Conservation Area Agreement (2009)

Santos has environmental strategies in place to protect the Pilliga and minimise impact of the Project. These include:

Obtaining ecological data to increase our understanding of the environment:

- + Conducting ecological surveys on flora and fauna
- + Building on the 3,500 hours of surveys carried out since 2002
- + Extensive groundwater studies undertaken
- + Air testing to record baseline methane levels at sites in the Pilliga and across the region

Avoiding work in significant areas:

- + Site assessments to identify areas of cultural heritage and ecological significance
- + Lateral drilling allows Santos to avoid sensitive sites
- + This drilling technique reduces well numbers and surface disturbance

Mitigating any impact by minimising our environmental footprint:

- + Using existing road and access tracks when possible to minimise clearing
- + Locating the majority of our water handling and treatment facilities outside the Pilliga
- + Progressive rehabilitation to reduce the size of cleared areas once construction complete
- + Complete rehabilitation of sites when wells have been decommissioned

Offsetting the land we use:

- + Santos will be required to offset the land in the Pilliga impacted by the Project
- + Santos is committed to working with the Office of Environment and Heritage to identify an appropriate offsets package
- + Any land offsets will be acquired by Santos and will be protected in perpetuity

Environmental initiatives to preserve and improve local ecology:

- + Strict vehicle wash-down procedures and weed management control
- + Contribution to control programs to assist in the reduction of pest animals is planned



Air testing to record methane levels in the Narrabri area

Project overview

The Narrabri Gas Project could supply up to half of the natural gas used by NSW homes, small businesses, major industries and electricity generators every day

Operations will be focussed on land in and around the Pilliga, near Narrabri

The Project will create over 1,200 jobs during construction and bring substantial economic benefits to Narrabri and the region, while delivering a clean, reliable source of energy to NSW

About Santos

An Australian energy pioneer since 1954, Santos is one of Australia's largest domestic gas producers with more than 3,000 employees and a long history of safe, responsible operations.

For more information

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