

# COMMUNIQUE 23

## NARRABRI GAS PROJECT COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CCC)

---

### About the CCC

The Narrabri Gas Project Community Consultative Committee (CCC) brings together community, industry, local and state governments to explore and discuss issues relating to the exploration and extraction of natural gas in the Narrabri Gas Project area.

Chaired by the NSW Land and Water Commissioner, members of the dialogue include Narrabri Shire Councillors, independent community members, senior Santos representatives and senior agency officers from the Division of Resources and Geoscience (DRG), the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), the Department of Primary Industries Water (DPI Water) and the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE).

### Summary of 12 December meeting

- Santos Operations Update
- EPA Monthly Update
- GISERA Project Updates – *Human Health Effects of Coal Seam Gas Activity Study Design and Social baseline assessment of the Narrabri region of New South Wales*

The Chair welcomed members and guests to the meeting and introduced Brian Pate from the Department of Planning and Environment as the new representative on the Committee who will undertake the Government liaison role. Attendees were advised that the Narrabri Shire Councillors have a workshop commitment and a representative from Council is attending the CCC meeting as an observer. The Chair also reminded attendees that CCC meeting protocol requires respectful engagement between members.

A Santos representative provided copies of the Monthly Activity Update that is emailed to Members each month and answered questions arising from the update. Copies of the Monthly Activity Updates are available from the Narrabri Gas Project website.

An EPA representative provided a draft copy of the monthly Narrabri CCC EPA Newsletter to Members for October-November 2017, with the final newsletter being available from the EPA website and via the subscription service.

Dr Andrea Walton from the CSIRO Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance (GISERA) provided an update on progress of the *Human Health Effects of Coal Seam Gas Activity Study Design* and advised that workshops were undertaken with a number of stakeholders, including those in Queensland. The literature review and report is available on GISERA website with the final report due to be released early next year. Dr Walton reminded members that this phase of the project is to design the study, not actually undertaking the study which is a separate phase that will require further project approvals. Members asked questions relating to how health impacts from different industries in the area could be differentiated; how large the proposed study area would be; how issues that impact mental health can be differentiated; and what the next steps were for the project.

Dr Walton advised that the survey report *Community wellbeing and perceptions of coal seam gas (CSG) development in the Narrabri region, NSW* was released on 10 November 2017. The report involved surveying 400 Narrabri Shire residents during March and April 2017 to establish baseline measures of community wellbeing and expected future wellbeing over the next three years. It also investigated community resilience and adaptation in the context of a proposed CSG development in the shire, as well as measuring local attitudes and perceptions of CSG development and the CSG sector. Members

# COMMUNIQUE 23

## NARRABRI GAS PROJECT COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CCC)

also had the opportunity to meet with Dr Walton after the CCC meeting for further information on the survey report.

The Chair distributed a report to members in draft form entitled *Geological Summary Coonamble – Gilgandra Region* with the final report available from the Land and Water Commissioner website. This report was prepared in response to community enquiries about the geology of the Coonamble-Gilgandra region, particularly in relation to coal-bearing formations. Within the Walgett, Coonamble and Gilgandra LGA areas, records indicate only nine boreholes have been drilled under Petroleum Exploration Licences since 1963, however the available drilling data suggests relatively low potential for development of coal and coal seam gas resources in this area.

Updated copies of the *NSW Status Reports for the Gunnedah/Narrabri Region* from the NSW Land and Water Commissioner were distributed in hard copy and also emailed to members prior to the meeting. Status Reports have been updated for the Leard Forest, Pilliga East Forest, Vickery Forest, Gunnedah and Werris Creek Mining Precincts as well as a Compliance Report Summary for the North West Region. Resource projects have obligations to report monitoring results for dust, noise and water and to provide details on the progression of the mine disturbance and rehabilitation. While all of this information is publicly available, these reports consolidate the data together in one consistent simple format.

The reports include dust and water monitoring from the relevant companies as well as the NSW Government run monitoring programs so the community can compare industry and government data. The reports also provide information on the current status of each mine; the rehabilitation security bond held and when it was last updated; and details about licences and approvals under which the companies have authority to operate. There is also a compliance report that displays data reported by the regulators and includes the activities they undertake across all industries. Copies of the reports are also available online from the Land and Water Commissioner website.

A member asked a question about which regulator monitors the water from the reverse osmosis water treatment plant at Leewood used for irrigation at the site which an EPA representative answered. The question prompted further discussion amongst members of water quality more broadly from sources such as rivers, groundwater irrigation sources and town water sources. Members were referred to previous discussions on this subject and Chair requested links to previous documents from Narrabri Gas Project CCC meeting May 2016 be distributed to members.

The next meeting of the CCC will be held on Tuesday 13 February 2018.

Please see the following table for each nominated community/industry group delegate contact details:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Contact details</b>
Matt Norrie	NSW Farmers	matthewnorrie@bigpond.com
Conrad Bolton	North West Local Land Services	conrad.bolton@lls.nsw.gov.au
Jack Warnock	Cotton Australia	jackwarnock@bigpond.com
Jon Maree Baker	Namoi Water	eo@namoiwater.com.au
Russell Stewart	Narrabri Chamber of Commerce	fourstewarts@bigpond.com
Jocelyn Cameron	NSW Country Women's Association	dcandjccameron@bigpond.com
Stuart Murray	People for the Plains	denisemurray47@gmail.com
Lynn Trindall	Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council	admin@narrabrilalc.com.au
Brian Pate	Department of Planning and Environment	brian.pate@planning.nsw.gov.au
Annie Moody	Santos Ltd	annie.moody@santos.com

NOTE: The content contained within the document above is a record of the Narrabri Gas Project Community Consultative Committee meeting. The views expressed are not necessarily endorsed by all Committee members.