

COMMUNIQUE 27

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 Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC), the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE), and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

Summary of 17 July 2018 meeting

- Division of Resources and Geoscience – Gas Community Benefit Fund
- Hunter New England Health – Overview
- Santos Update
- EPA Update
- DPE Update
- Santos Presentation – Narrabri Gas Project

The Chair welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Diane Crosdale, Director Resources Policy from the Division of Resources and Geoscience provided the committee with an update on the status of the Gas Community Benefit Fund and acknowledged that the current guidelines did not address feedback received from Local Government and community members and they will need to be amended over time. Members were informed that the fund is voluntary and there is no compunction under legislation for a company to establish the fund. However, Santos has made a commitment within the Narrabri Gas Project EIS to contribute to the fund and this will be considered by the Independent Planning and Assessment Commission in their consideration of the Project as the consent authority.

A Santos representative provided copies of the July 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. A Santos representative confirmed to a member following a question that the application for Modification 6 for the Narrabri Coal Seam Gas Utilisation Project was for the wells Dewhurst 26-31 and the Tintfield 2-7 pilot wells and not for all wells in PEL 238.

An EPA representative provided a draft copy of the monthly Narrabri CCC EPA Newsletter to members for June 2018 with the final newsletter being available from the EPA website and via the subscription service. An EPA representative advised that the newsletter has included an interest article “Oil and Gas Industry Acronyms and Commonly Used Terms” and welcomed suggestions from members for future articles.

Dr Craig Dalton from Hunter New England Local Health District presented an overview of NSW Health’s approach to assessment of health impacts associated with mining and gas industry. NSW Health focus on identifying the issues and assess hazards and exposure pathways and undertake risk evaluation. Dr Dalton spoke about air emissions and their potential health risk. NSW Health provided a response to the Narrabri Gas Project EIS which is available on the DPE website and are happy for committee members to contact Hunter New England Health if they have questions about health matters associated with resource projects and need help to find information.

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EPA advised the committee of the air monitoring data that is available for this area and a link to the data was provided to members after the meeting. The Gunnedah and Narrabri stations are part of the local industry funded Namoi Air Quality Monitoring Network, which is operated by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and supported by the NSW Environment Protection Authority. Information on the broader network of air quality monitoring in regional and rural NSW is also available on the Office of Environment and Heritage website.

A Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) representative advised that the Department had received additional submissions from a community group in relation to topics including waste, groundwater and fugitive emissions and that Santos would be given an opportunity to respond to the matters raised.

A DPE representative advised that the Santos applications for Modification 6 *Narrabri Coal Seam Gas Utilisation Project* and the Modification 2 *Dewhurst Gas Exploration Pilot Expansion* were currently being assessed by the Department.

Following a request from a member at the last meeting, a Santos representative provided a presentation on the Narrabri Gas Project the same as was made to the Narrabri Shire Council in February 2017 with an additional slide in relation to expected employment associated with the Project. Employment estimates and other potential economic benefits of the Project are documented in Chapter 27 of the EIS and a copy of that chapter was distributed to members in hard copy at the meeting.

The committee was advised that further exploration and appraisal activities would occur in the Project area in the first phase of the Narrabri Gas Project as well as the drilling and operation of additional production wells and associated gas field infrastructure.

The committee was advised that there was a preference to expand the generation capacity at the power station to use gas beneficially rather than flaring it. The *Petroleum (Onshore) Regulation* enables the beneficial use of gas recovered during prospecting operations subject to meeting thresholds and limitations. This would increase the supply of gas available to the power station, however no increase to the approved capacity of the power beyond 40MW is proposed. A Santos representative advised that 12MW generates power for the equivalent of around 17,500 households. This prompted a discussion on options for local electricity generation.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 27 September 2018.

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

Name	Organisation	Contact details
David Scilley	NSW Farmers	david.scilley@gmail.com
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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
Tony Pickard	People for the Plains	deere@activ8.net.au
Lynn Trindall	Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council	admin@narrabrilalc.com.au
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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.
