

COMMUNIQUE 32

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 committee include Narrabri Shire Councillors, independent community members, senior Santos representatives and senior agency officers from the Department of Planning and Environment and the Environment Protection Authority.

Summary of 9 July 2019 meeting

- Santos Update
- Environment Protection Authority Update
- Department of Planning and Environment Update

A Santos representative provided a copy of the Monthly Activity Update that is emailed to members at the beginning of each month. A representative from People for the Plains asked a question about the Santos media release from February 2019 in relation to the royalties' payable on the potential supply of gas to an ammonium nitrate plant and Santos advised that they will respond out of session. Santos acknowledged that they were yet to provide some responses to questions tabled at previous meetings.

An Environment Protection Authority (EPA) representative provided a draft copy of the Narrabri CCC EPA Newsletter to members with the final newsletter being available from the EPA website and via the subscription service.

A Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) representative advised that the Department is continuing to prepare the assessment report for the Environment Impact Statement (EIS). Santos has provided required information and further information from DOI (Water) and EPA is due to DPE soon to enable the assessment report to be finalised, which may take around three months. The EIS and assessment report is then expected to be referred to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) for determination. The Minister may make a decision on whether the IPC will hold a Public Hearing in the next few weeks. A DPE representative advised that timeframes are difficult to predict, but the earliest an IPC decision could be expected would be the first quarter of 2020.

There was a request from members for a representative from Government to provide an update on the progress of the Gas Community Benefit Fund that has been listed as a future meeting agenda item for some time. A Narrabri Shire Council representative advised that a Council position paper is scheduled to be presented to the July Meeting of the Council. A DPE representative advised that they would arrange a meeting in relation to the framework of the Gas Community Benefit Fund with DPE, the Division of Resources and Geoscience, Narrabri Shire Council and Santos to progress discussions and will arrange for a representative from the Division of Resources and Geoscience to provide an update at the next CCC meeting.

There was a discussion in relation to baseline water monitoring for this area and the Chair advised that the Maules Creek Data Package which had information relevant to the subject was uploaded to the NSW Land and Water Commissioner Website in June 2019. The Chair requested the secretariat to distribute a copy to members. A representative from People for the Plains noted changes had been made to the Santos Water Portal following a recent update, and a Santos representative advised that the feedback from committee members on improvements that could be made to the Portal had been considered in the update.

A representative from People for the Plains asked if GISERA were attending a future CCC meeting to provide an update in relation to GISERA W8 [*CSG-induced groundwater impacts in the Pilliga region*] and S9

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[Decommissioning coal seam gas wells] reports. Secretariat referred to the NSW Update provided by GISERA at May 2019 meeting that included updates on the projects. Outcome from committee discussion and majority vote by show of hands (State Government and Santos representatives did not participate) was that members were satisfied with the level of information provided and did not require a presentation from GISERA on the reports. The Chair requested that the details of a GISERA contact be provided to members to refer questions that they may have in relation to the reports.

A representative from People for the Plains requested an update from EPA on the progress of the Environmental risk and responsibility and insurance arrangements project that has been listed for some time as a future agenda item for the CCC. An EPA representative advised that the work is broad and covers insurance and assurance. The project is well progressed and the framework is likely to be referred for consideration to senior government representatives soon. EPA will provide advice to the committee when the matter has been considered but it isn't expected to be before September 2019. An EPA representative also advised of work in progress to address another outstanding chief scientist recommendation [4] regarding cost recovery for the regulation of the gas industry.

A representative from People for the Plains asked for an update to be provided from DOI (Water) in relation to the *Water Monitoring Strategy for Coal Basins in NSW – Gunnedah Basin* project on progress of planned water monitoring bores referred to as 1D [Pilliga West], 4B [Scratch Road] and 14 [Pilliga South] as presented at November 2018 CCC meeting.

There was a discussion amongst members and Government representatives in relation to the potential license and approval framework for future irrigation of treated produced water at Leewood in the context of a potential State Significant Development Project consent.

A representative from North West Local Land Services asked a question in relation to the disposal of salts from the project with a DPE representative providing a brief overview on matters associated with disposal to landfill. A brief discussion amongst members followed in relation to beneficial re-use options. A representative from People for the Plains said that they'd noted in a Santos Water Management Plan an option for a local coal mine to trial the use of brine. A representative from the Narrabri Chamber of Commerce advised he was the Chair of the Narrabri Mine CCC and would seek more information through that committee and advise members at the next meeting.

The representative from People for the Plains tabled a number of questions to Santos and NSW Government Departments or Agencies and the questions have been directed to the relevant entities for consideration.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 10 September 2019.

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
Conrad Bolton	North West Local Land Services	conrad.bolton@lls.nsw.gov.au
Jack Warnock	Lower Namoi Cotton Growers Association	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	dcandjcameron@bigpond.com
Tony Pickard	People for the Plains	deere@activ8.net.au
Lynn Trindall	Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council	ceo@narrabrilalc.com.au
Stephen O'Donoghue	Department of Planning and Environment	stephen.o'donoghue@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.