

Narrabri Gas Project (PEL 238)



Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):

- On 12 June 2020, the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) referred Santos' application to develop the Narrabri Gas Project to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) for determination.
- As part of the referral, DPIE provided the IPC with its Final Assessment Report which was informed by extensive community consultation and advice from the Narrabri Shire Council, government agencies and independent experts.
- The report concluded the Narrabri Gas Project:
 - Is critical for energy security and reliability in NSW;
 - Delivers significant economic benefits to NSW and the Narrabri region and would stimulate economic recovery from the effects of COVID-19;
 - Has been designed to minimise any impacts on the region's significant water resources, including the Great Artesian Basin, the biodiversity and heritage values of the Pilliga State Forest, and the health and safety of the local community; and
 - Would not result in any significant impacts on people or the environment.
- The report and the Narrabri Gas Project Recommended Conditions are available from the IPC website at www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/projects/2020/03/narrabri-gas-project
- The IPC will now conduct an Electronic Public Hearing in relation to the Narrabri Gas Project between Monday, 20 July and Friday, 24 July 2020. Further information in relation to the public hearing process is available on the IPC website at the link above.
- If you would like to apply to speak at the public hearing, you must complete the online Speaker Registration form by 5pm AEST Friday 10 July 2020. The form is available from the IPC website at www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/resources/pac/media/files/pac/general/registration-formfinal.pdf
- The IPC will accept written comments on the Narrabri Gas Project up to seven days after the hearing via email, post or the online portal at www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/have-your-say

- The NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces has requested the IPC to make a final determination within 12 weeks of receiving the report.

Western Slopes Pipeline:

- APA Group announced in October 2018 that it has deferred submission of the EIS for the Western Slopes Pipeline until the assessment of the Narrabri Gas Project EIS has further progressed.
- Further information on the Western Slopes Pipeline is available on APA's website www.apa.com.au/about-apa/our-projects/western-slopes-pipeline/

Drilling activities:

- No activities planned for July.

Pilot wells:

- Bibblewindi East, Bibblewindi West and Dewhurst South pilot wells are online. Tintfield pilot is offline to reduce flaring until additional gas is required.

Leewood:

- Santos does not need to irrigate at this time and water is stored in the holding ponds at Leewood.

Wilga Park Power Station:

- The Wilga Park Power Station is online.

Other Activities:

- Groundwater monitoring activities are ongoing for Environmental Protection Licence compliance.

Community:

- The next meeting of the Narrabri Gas Project Community Consultative Committee is scheduled to be held in electronic format on Tuesday, 14 July 2020. Communiques and presentations from previous CCC meetings are available from www.narrabrigasproject.com.au/community/consultative-committee/

Other:

- In an Australian first, Santos has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Natural Soda to use salts removed from produced water as part of the Narrabri Gas Project. Santos Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Kevin Gallagher

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said the MOU is a commitment from both Santos and Natural Soda to complete a concept study to produce sodium bicarbonate in Narrabri. Australia doesn't have a domestic bicarbonate industry and the product is currently imported for use in food production, pharmaceuticals and a wide range of industrial uses.

- The Office of the Chief Economist, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources has released the Resources and Energy Quarterly Report for June 2020. The report contains the Office of the Chief Economist's forecasts for the value, volume and price of Australia's major resources and energy commodity exports. The report is available at www.industry.gov.au/data-and-publications/resources-and-energy-quarterly-june-2020
- The May edition of the Division of Resources and Geoscience newsletter has been released. The newsletter is available at www.resourcesandgeoscience.nsw.gov.au/
- Santos is committed to supporting government and community efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19. Access to the Narrabri Operations Centre is restricted to staff and contractors who meet strict screening procedures and community site tours have been postponed. The Narrabri Shopfront is open by appointment only with team members available by phone and email. Santos will continue to monitor the NSW Government health advice and implement measures in accordance with the directives issued.