

COMMUNIQUE 1

Narrabri Gas Project Community Consultative Committee (CCC)

Summary of 13 January 2015 meeting

- Public consultation regarding Review of Environmental Factors (REF)
- Environmental Protection Licence approval process; NSW Office of Water and Environment Protection Authority (EPA)
- Issue of document file size on Santos' website problematic for local community and CCC members
- Detailed Coal Seam Gas Well integrity information to be produced and provided to committee members
- Sulphate Reducing bacteria and CSG wells discussed
- Issue surrounding the roles and responsibilities of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and how they apply to the Narrabri Gas Project (NGP) was raised
- Discussion around the appropriate contact method for community members to raise issues within the Narrabri Gas Project 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 CSG in the Gunnedah Basin.

Chaired by the NSW Land and Water Commissioner, members of the committee include Narrabri Shire Councillors and officers, independent community members, senior Santos representatives and senior agency officers from the Office of Coal Seam Gas (OCSG), the Division of Resources and Energy (DRE), the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), the NSW Office of Water (NOW) and the Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E) as required.

Discussion was raised regarding public consultation during the REF process with greater clarity to be provided by OCSG and EPA at the next meeting.

During the discussion on the CSG compliance regime, the issue of the respective roles and responsibilities of government departments and agencies and their application to the Narrabri Gas Project arose. An explanation of the roles and responsibilities and their interaction will be made at the next CCC meeting. Also, recent changes in CSG-relevant legislation were questioned and will be reviewed at the CCC meeting.

Sulphate reducing bacteria (SRB) and well integrity were discussed, with the People for the Plains representative asking why SRB were not monitored by the NSW government for the Narrabri Gas Project. OCSG, NoW and EPA will provide comprehensive information at the next CCC meeting. Note that an SRB presentation was made to the Santos CCC in April 2013.

EPA gave a presentation outlining water sampling requirements and parameters regarding Environment Protection Licence (EPL) 20350 and its application to the Narrabri gas field – PEL238, PPL3 and PAL2. The presentation outlined the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997, an outline of EPL's and what they regulate, the Santos Gas Project operations, a description of the monitoring sites and the parameters monitored, water monitoring frequencies and the provisions for groundwater quality data being made available to the public. Discussion centred on Santos' water data, specifically the sampling of private bores; location of these bores was also discussed.

EPA also presented the current EPA Compliance Regime. This included discussion of the NSW gas industry and that in June 2013, the EPA became the lead regulator of the environmental and health impacts of CSG activities.

The regulatory measures within NSW were outlined, including the Codes of Practice for Well Integrity and Hydraulic Fracture Stimulation, the Aquifer Interference Policy, the banned use of evaporation ponds, the banned use of BTEX chemicals and the independent review by the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer.

The NSW Gas Plan was outlined stating that it resets the approach to gas development in NSW and that it sets the framework for a safe and sustainable gas industry by introducing strong and certain regulation of gas activities across NSW. The presentation concluded with a brief summary of the EPA's new role as lead regulator for compliance and enforcement of the conditions of approval for all gas activities.

The NSW Office of Water provides a website (<http://realtimedata.water.nsw.gov.au/water.stm>) for accessing groundwater level data across the State. Local internet services are regularly congested making it difficult to access the data on a regular basis. Local irrigators wish to access this data to monitor changes in groundwater monitoring bores related to CSG and coal mining developments, however, it is far too time consuming to access this data.

Committee members discussed file size and download capability from the Santos and government websites with it being stated that Santos would look to ensure files were made as user-friendly as possible; preferably under 4 MB where possible. This discussion was also seen as relevant to the emails and attachments resulting from the CCC. Also relevant to this discussion, it was stated that Santos should review the style of language used as it is seen as too technical in many instances.

Also discussed was the Santos Water Portal (www.santoswaterportal.com.au). Water monitoring data is presented in graph form on the website. The issue stated was of scales used in the graphs to display the results of water monitoring. It was suggested that more appropriate scales are used to allow for the reader to better and more easily understand the graphed information.

The contact method for community members to have items tabled at the Narrabri Gas Project CCC meeting was raised as an issue; it was decided that the contact details for each community and/or industry representative be made available. Please see the following table for each nominated community/industry group delegate contact details.

Name	Organisation	Contact details
Matt Norrie	NSW Farmers	matthewnorrie@bigpond.com
Phillip Kirkby	Local Land Services	phillipkirkby@bigpond.com
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
Tony Pickard	People for the Plains	deere@activ8.net.au
Lynn Trindall	Local Aboriginal Land Council	admin@narrabrilalc.com.au
Cr Catherine Collyer	Narrabri Shire Council	cr.collyer@narrabri.nsw.gov.au
Cr Catherine Redding	Narrabri Shire Council	cr.redding@narrabri.nsw.gov.au
Annie Moody	Santos	annie.moody@santos.com
Andrew Ellis	Division of Resources & Energy	andrew.ellis@trade.nsw.gov.au

The current Narrabri Gas Project CCC venue was discussed with the option of the Crossing Theatre being nominated as a more appropriate option. The nominated venue has been contacted with a quote requested; the quoted information is currently under review with all future NGP CCC meetings to be held at the Santos boardroom until otherwise notified.

NOTE: The content contained within the document above is a record of the Narrabri Gas Project Community Consultative Committee #2. The views expressed are not necessarily endorsed by all committee members.