

COMMUNIQUE 11

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 Energy (DRE), the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), the Department of Primary Industries Water (DPI Water) and the Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E).

Summary of 12 April 2016 meeting

- Action items from last meeting
- Santos Operations Update
- EPA Monthly Update
- Water Monitoring Framework for Coal Basins in NSW
- Salt accumulation/irrigation Committee member discussion item
- Revised Community Consultative Committee Guidelines and Exploration Code of Practice: Community Consultation

The Chair and members discussed action items from the last meeting and a member requested that a map be distributed showing the locations of monitoring bores at Leewood in addition to the GIS locations.

Santos discussed the Monthly Activity Update and answered questions arising from the update. There was a discussion in relation to galvanised burr in forest areas arising from the discussion about rehabilitation activities that Santos were undertaking at a number of sites. Members that attended the Narrabri sitting of the Senate Committee on Unconventional Gas provided a brief summary of the proceedings to members. The update also prompted a discussion on the approval of Leewood Phase 2 relating to irrigation and licences required by EPA prior to activity commencing.

An EPA representative provided a draft copy of the *Narrabri CCC EPA Newsletter April 2016* to members and advised that the final version would be available on the EPA website in due course. EPA representatives provided an update on staff recruitment activities for roles based in Narrabri and provided a brief overview on the proposed office location and progress with arranging facilities for those staff.

Representatives from DPI Water provided the Committee with an overview of the *Water Monitoring Strategy for Coal Basins in NSW* and the methodology associated with monitoring-bore site selection. The Committee was advised that DPI Water operates a groundwater monitoring network of more than 5000 bores in over 3000 locations. In 2014, the NSW government allocated \$22.8M to the Water Monitoring Strategy and under this initiative, the groundwater monitoring network will be expanded to better map, monitor and protect groundwater resources. The aim of the water monitoring strategy is to provide information that

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industry and individuals can access and use. This information will also assist Government in the development of policy and assist with planning activities associated with groundwater in NSW. DPI Water provided a presentation which prompted discussion amongst members and was followed by a question/answer session in relation to the project. DPI Water will also provide a map of proposed monitoring bores with an overlay of existing bores to members.

An EPA representative advised that they were still awaiting the Fact Sheet from DRE in relation to an outstanding action relating to rehabilitation conditions, standards and monitoring. The Committee was advised that components of that matter will also be covered in the scheduled May 2016 Agenda item about how produced water in the Narrabri Gas Project is assessed and a comparison to other water sources used for irrigation.

There was a discussion amongst members in relation to salt accumulation and irrigation that also referenced a letter published in a local newspaper. The Chair requested that Committee matters that may be of interest to all members be reserved for discussion at meetings.

The Chair advised that the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation had progressed the development of the Environmental Data Portal and had advised that they would attend a future meeting of the CCC to provide a demonstration as a follow up to their presentation to the Committee in December 2015.

The Division of Resources and Energy have released the final version of the *Exploration Code of Practice: Community Consultation* that sets out mandatory requirements for exploration licence and assessment lease holders on the expected performance for engagement in adequate, inclusive and appropriate community consultation. The code of practice applies to exploration licences and assessment leases issued under the *Mining Act 1992* and the *Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991*.

Information Links:

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

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NOTE: The content contained within the document above is a record of the Narrabri Gas Project Community Consultative Committee #11. The views expressed are not necessarily endorsed by all Committee members.