COMMUNIQUE 13

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 July and 9 August 2016 meetings

- Action items from last meeting
- Santos Operations Update
- EPA Monthly Update
- July - Environmental Protection Authority – Introduction of new EPA office and staff in Narrabri
- August - Department of Finance, Services and Innovation – Environmental Data Portal Demonstration

There was no meeting of the Narrabri Gas Project CCC held in June 2016.

At the July meeting, the Chair and committee members welcomed the Chair and Chief Executive Officer of EPA Board, Barry Buffier and the Chief Environmental Regulator, Mark Gifford. Mr Buffier introduced two staff members appointed to the new EPA office in Narrabri. The EPA Board had visited Narrabri in May 2015 and the commitment to have an EPA office locally had originated from that visit and the discussions with Council and community members at that time. The officers based in Narrabri will be primarily dealing with gas industry matters, but will also undertake general EPA duties as required.

Mr Buffier provided the committee with a brief update on other EPA activities and initiatives that are occurring in the broader Narrabri area including air monitoring relating to the coal and gas industry and work being undertaken with the CSIRO. An update was provided on the role of EPA as lead regulator for the gas industry effective from 1 July 2015 and the work that has been undertaken collaboratively with the Division of Resources and Energy to implement the change. EPA will provide a presentation to the Committee at a future meeting to discuss this in more detail.

As a standing agenda item, a Santos representative discussed the Monthly Activity Updates each month and answered questions arising from the update. In July, a member requested information on water allocations and the water source for Santos operations in the Narrabri Gas Project area. A member reminded the committee that he was interested in outcomes from the methane emission survey undertaken by Santos some time ago. Santos advised that they will provide a presentation to the committee when the report is available. Copies of the Monthly Activity Updates for July and August are available from the Narrabri Gas Project website.

An EPA representative provided a copy of the monthly *Narrabri CCC EPA Newsletters* to members at the July and August meetings, with the final versions available from the EPA website, under the Gas Industry tab. A copy of the Rehabilitation Fact Sheet was distributed to members in July to finalise an action item from a previous meeting. EPA will provide more information on rehabilitation as part of the presentation to the Committee at a future meeting in relation to how the EPA undertakes their regulatory role.

Information on the Gas Community Benefits Fund information as published on the websites of the Division of Resources and Energy and the DPI – Rural Assistance Authority was distributed at the July meeting to members in relation to a previous action item. There was a query from a CCC member in relation to the perception that the State was foregoing royalties associated with the Community Benefit Fund and a copy of the Media Release of Hon Andrew Stoner MP, 23 June 2012 at the time of the announcement of the Fund was provided to members out of session to clarify that "The NSW Government contribution will be funded by ending the royalty holiday for Coal Seam Gas producers".

A member of the GISERA Regional Research Advisory Committee provided a brief update at the July meeting on recent activity within the group, and advised that information on current research projects are regularly updated on the GISERA website.

At the August meeting, a member of the Committee requested an update on the DPI Water Monitoring Strategy and a response will be provided out of session.

The Department of Finance, Services and Innovation gave a presentation at the August meeting to provide an update on the development of the Environmental Data Portal and members were provided with a time-limited link to the test site out of session to review the site and provide feedback to the development team.

Information Links:

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
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Russell Stewart	Narrabri Chamber of Commerce	fourstewarts@bigpond.com
Jocelyn Cameron	NSW Country Women's Association	dcandjjcameron@bigpond.com
Tony Pickard	People for the Plains	deere@activ8.net.au
Cr Catherine Redding	Narrabri Shire Council	cr.redding@narrabri.nsw.gov.au
Cr Maxine Booby	Narrabri Shire Council	cr.booby@narrabri.nsw.gov.au
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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.