

COMMUNIQUE 14

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 13 September meeting

- Action items from last meeting
- Santos Operations Update
- EPA Monthly Update
- Environmental Protection Authority – How the EPA Regulates (gas industry and in general) and Rehabilitation Overview

The Committee discussed action items from the last meeting and talked further about the Gas Community Benefits Fund (CBF) rebate. The CBF information states that for every \$2 paid by the company (that holds a petroleum title) into an authorised CBF, the NSW Government will give that company a \$1 rebate on its gas royalties, up to a maximum of 10% of the royalty due in each year. A maximum of \$500,000 is available per project.

Santos distributed the Monthly Activity Update for September 2016 and answered questions arising from the update. Questions from members related to proposed irrigation activities at Leewood; the maximum approved capacity of power generation at Wilga Park Power Station; and repair works being undertaken at the Tintfield Pond.

An EPA representative introduced EPA staff members Adam Gilligan, Kyle Horner and Bridie George who were in attendance. Adam has responsibility for EPA matters in the Narrabri area outside of gas industry; Kyle is currently undertaking role of Senior Project Officer but substantively occupies the role as Senior Hydrogeologist; and Bridie has been employed in a new role as Community Engagement Officer at the EPA office in Narrabri.

EPA provided a draft copy of the Narrabri CCC EPA Newsletter September 2016 to the Committee and advised that the final version would be available on the EPA website. There was a brief discussion on the EPA developing a subscription option for the wider community to access the Narrabri Newsletter as this is a way to gauge how the Community is accessing the EPA web page. Committee members will still receive a copy of the Monthly Newsletter via email. EPA will progress development of this option for the newsletter in the future and advise the Committee when it becomes available.

There was a discussion in relation to the best contact telephone number for the EPA and the process EPA has in place to respond to callers who ring the hotline number. The general contact number for EPA is 131 555 and this number is available for contact 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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A representatives from EPA delivered a presentation *The EPA's approach to compliance and enforcement* which is the same presentation as previously given provided to the Narrabri Shire Council as was requested by members. Additional slides were added to include specific information on rehabilitation activities. The Committee discussed security bonds held by Government and the standard of rehabilitation required for landholder acceptance. The Chair referred to this matter Minister Roberts in Hansard from the Estimates Hearing relevant to his portfolio in 2015 about rehabilitation and security bonds held by Government and requested that a copy of this extract be distributed to members. The EPA spoke at length about their regulatory inspection process with industry from the planning phase right through to the decommissioning phase of projects.

The Chair advised that Cr Catherine Redding and Cr Maxine Booby are apologies for this meeting as the Narrabri Shire Council election was held on 10 September and results of the election were not finalised. It is part of the process of Local Government that new Committee representatives are elected by Council post-election.

There was a discussion in relation to accessing information from various Government departments and it was requested that a link be distributed to members to access the NSW Government website that provides an overview of various Departments and their roles.

There was a brief discussion as to whether the Community Consultative Committee guidelines that were distributed for comment in draft by NSW Government earlier in the year have been finalized and the Committee requested an update on their status.

The committee commented on the poor attendance of community representatives at the meeting and noted that some groups rarely had a representative in attendance. The Chair has requested letters to member groups in relation to sending a proxy to meetings to ensure adequate representation at future meetings.

A representative from CSIRO Gas Industry Social and Environment Research Alliance (GISERA) will attend the November meeting to provide an update on GISERA's research projects in NSW.

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
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	dcandjcameron@bigpond.com
Tony Pickard	People for the Plains	deere@activ8.net.au
Annie Moody	Santos Ltd	annie.moody@santos.com
Nick Butler	Division of Resources and Energy	nick.butler@industry.nsw.gov.au

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.