

Tuesday, 21 February 2017

## **Department seeks community views on Narrabri Gas Project proposal**

The Department of Planning and Environment will today place on public exhibition Santos' Narrabri Gas Project Environmental Impact Statement and is inviting the community to share its views.

Mike Young, Director of Resource Assessments, said the Department will be consulting broadly on the proposal and is keen to hear from all individuals and groups interested in the proposal.

"We are making every effort to make sure people have an opportunity to hear about the project and give us feedback during this assessment," Mr Young said.

"There will be a number of opportunities to provide feedback including community information sessions and meetings with local landowners and interest groups.

"We want to hear people's views - farmers, landholders, locals, Aboriginal groups, industry groups, councils. Everyone is welcome to make a submission and all will be read and considered in our assessment."

Mr Young said as part of the assessment the Department will be establishing a panel of eminent scientific experts to provide independent advice on the proposal.

"These experts will be an integral part of the assessment process. Much of the information is of a scientific and technical nature and we are keen to get the best independent advice possible in assessing this project," he said.

"In addition, we will be working with other key NSW Government agencies and seeking advice from the Commonwealth's Independent Expert Scientific Committee.

"Any issues raised in submissions will be looked at and taken into account."

Given the high level of public interest in the proposal, the Department has extended the normal exhibition period to more than 60 days. It closes on April 24.

Following the exhibition period, the Department will comprehensively assess the submissions and the EIS.

The Narrabri Gas Project proposal involves a coal seam gas field with up to 850 gas wells to be developed progressively over 20 years, and a gas processing and water treatment facilities.

Santos' Environmental Impact Statement is available on the Department's website, and at all major centres in the region including Narrabri, Wee Waa, Gunnedah, Coonabarabran and Coonamble

To attend one of the public information sessions, people should register their interest on **1800 616 493**.

**Location: Crossing Theatre, 117 Tibbereena St, Narrabri, NSW**

**Dates: Tuesday 7 March and Wednesday 8 March 2017**

If media plan to attend they must register via [mediaunit@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mediaunit@planning.nsw.gov.au)

The Environmental Impact Statement for the Narrabri Gas Project is available online at [http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view\\_job&job\\_id=6456](http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=6456)

NSW Chief Scientist 2014 Coal Seam Gas Review

<http://www.chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au/reports/coal-seam-gas-review>

NSW Gas Plan

<http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/energy-supply-industry/legislation-and-policy/nsw-gas-plan>

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