

COMMUNIQUE 16

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 31 January 2017 meeting

- Santos Presentation – Environmental Impact Statement for Narrabri Gas Project
- APA Group Presentation – Western Slopes Pipeline
- Department of Planning and Environment discussion
- Santos Operations Update
- EPA Monthly Update

The Chair and committee members welcomed guests from the Department of Planning and Environment; Department of Premier and Cabinet; the APA Group; and Santos.

A representative from Santos advised that an application and the accompanying Environmental Impact Statement for the Narrabri Gas Project State Significant Development would be submitted in early February 2017 to the Department of Planning and Environment for assessment. It was subsequently lodged on 1 February 2017. A presentation was provided to members at the meeting on the Narrabri Gas Project EIS. The proposed project is familiar to Narrabri Gas Project CCC members from previous presentations and the Preliminary Environmental Assessment which detailed that the project includes up to 850 wells on up to 425 sites, an underground gathering pipeline network, gas processing and gas compression. The majority of the proposed Narrabri Gas Project is within State Forest; there is no national park or nature reserve and no mapped Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land within the project area; and the central gas and water processing facility will be located outside of the Forest at the Leewood site. The project could supply up to 200TJ/day of gas which would be made available to the NSW market.

The EIS is a comprehensive assessment of the potential impacts of the Project, with the presentation including table of contents of the various chapters and technical appendices that form the EIS document. Submissions on the EIS will be invited by DPE during the exhibition period, with DPE having a number of exhibition points including the DPE Major Projects website so that the EIS will be accessible to the community. Narrabri Gas Project CCC members will be provided with a USB copy of the EIS and hard copies of the document will be exhibited by DPE at a number of locations, locally and in the broader north west NSW area and Sydney.

A representative from the APA Group provided a presentation on the proposed Western Slopes Pipeline (WSP) and advised that APA is Australia's largest natural gas infrastructure business with more than 15,000km of natural gas pipelines. A Preliminary Environment Assessment and request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) will be shortly submitted to the DPE for the project. The proposed pipeline will connect natural gas from Santos' proposed Narrabri Gas Project to the NSW gas transmission pipeline system, connecting to the Moomba Sydney Pipeline at the Bundure mainline valve station approximately 100km west of Condobolin. The WSP would be designed and constructed in accordance with Australian Standard AS2885 Pipelines Gas and Liquid Petroleum. APA will shortly commence the detailed environmental assessment and stakeholder consultation process for the project

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including contacting Local Government and landowners along the preliminary pipeline alignment to discuss the project in more detail.

The Chair introduced Mike Young, Director of Resource Assessments from the Department of Planning and Environment who spoke on the process of assessing an application for a State Significant Development and provided a handout of a flowchart showing the process for members. Mr Young spoke about the bilateral agreement under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* between the Commonwealth and the State of New South Wales relating to environmental assessment. He also spoke about the NSW Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) and how it can be delegated by the Minister for Planning to determine applications for major developments including a State Significant Development Applications.

Mr Young advised that during the exhibition period of the EIS, DPE will hold community information sessions in the local area and will meet with key stakeholders including landholders in the project area. DPE seeks input from other NSW State Government agencies for support for technical assessment of the EIS and may also call on the Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development (IESC), a statutory committee of the Australian Government that provides scientific advice to decision makers in relation to water resources.

The Committee and DPE representatives spoke about indicative timing of the assessment process from the time of EIS lodgement and the exhibition period of 60 days. During the assessment process, it is foreseen that the Narrabri Gas Project CCC will continue in current format, however the PAC could make future recommendations in relation to structure and format of a Community Consultative Committee relating to the Project.

In general discussion following presentations, the standing agenda items of the committee were covered in a concise manner in consideration of available time. Santos provided a hard copy of the previously distributed Monthly Activity Update for January 2017 and EPA provided a draft copy of the Narrabri CCC EPA Newsletter Nov/Dec 2016 to the Committee and advised that the final version would be available on the EPA website.

There was a discussion in relation to the Regional Community Benefit Fund and how the Fund was to be administered and could be disbursed in the future. A member spoke about how it could be administered in terms of longevity and types of benefits that should come from the money, making a point that benefit should be of value to the community and not create an ongoing cost for the community to maintain.

It was advised out of session that the schedule for 2017 Narrabri Gas Project CCC meetings will be the second Tuesday of each month, 11.00am to 2.00pm.

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

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Tony Pickard	People for the Plains	deere@activ8.net.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.