

COMMUNIQUE 17

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 14 March 2017 meeting

- University of Adelaide presentation - *Mobile baseline concentration and isotope measurements of methane*
- Santos Operations Update
- EPA Monthly Update

The Chair and committee members welcomed Dr Michael Hatch from the University of Adelaide. Dr Hatch presented on the multi-year baseline study of methane (CH₄) levels that has been undertaken by the University and Santos since 2013. The aim of the study is to identify possible sources of CH₄ before production activities commence and to establish baseline levels across the region, noting that there are other known and potential sources of CH₄.

Dr Hatch advised that there has been five data collection campaigns since 2013 and new technology enables this work to be now done more efficiently and cost effectively using a vehicle mounted Cavity Ring Down Spectrometer (Picarro meter). The ability to measure carbon isotopic ratios has the potential to allow identification of the source of the CH₄ that is being measured at a given location. The data collected is a snapshot of the point in time that the sample is taken and results will vary depending on a number of factors, including temperature, wind speed and direction, time of day (night-time thermal inversions), topography, proximity to a source or sources, and activities being undertaken at a source (for example earthworks, construction).

CH₄ does not burn at concentrations below 50,000 parts per million (ppm). Pre-production baseline data for facilities in Narrabri Gas Project area generally recorded data of less than 10.5 ppm, with one reading at Bibblewindi 25 in August 2014 of 59.8 ppm. Non CSG land use sample results varied from background of 1.8 ppm to cattle saleyards at 22.22ppm; Pilliga Bore Baths site at 97.70 ppm; a landfill site (driving through) of 78.74 ppm; and disturbed mud in a wetland area registering >600 ppm.

A departmental representative advised that the Environment Protection Authority had also undertaken a methane emissions study in NSW and this report was being finalized and would be provided to CCC members out of session prior to the next meeting.

In general discussion, the Chair spoke about the various community information sessions hosted by the Department of Planning and Environment in Narrabri in early March to provide information on the Narrabri Gas Project EIS process. Members that attended sessions spoke positively of how informative the DPE sessions were and were pleased that the Department had initiated these sessions to provide information to the community.

Santos provided a hard copy of the previously distributed Monthly Activity Update for February and March 2017. The EPA provided a draft copy of the Narrabri CCC EPA Newsletter January/February 2017 to the Committee and advised that the final version would be available on the EPA website.

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The next meeting of the Narrabri Gas Project CCC will be Tuesday 11 April 2017.

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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Tony Pickard	People for the Plains	deere@activ8.net.au
Lynn Trindall	Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council	admin@narrabrilalc.com.au
Nick Butler	Division of Resources and Energy	nick.butler@industry.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.