

COMMUNIQUE 19

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 Geoscience (DRG), the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), the Department of Primary Industries Water (DPI Water) and the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE).

Summary of 13 June 2017 meeting

- Santos Operations Update
- EPA Monthly Update
- Department of Planning and Environment – Update on Narrabri Gas Project EIS process
- Department of Primary Industries Water – Update on Groundwater Monitoring Bore Program

There was a general discussion on the value and level of interest from members and the groups that they represent in relation to the content of the Land and Water Commission compiled report *NSW Status Report Project – Gunnedah/Narrabri Region* that was sent to members out of session by email on 2 June 2017. A member thanked the Chair for implementing this initiative and welcomed future reports.

Copies of two recent publications released from CSIRO were distributed to members at the meeting with the CSIRO Fact Sheet - *What does science tell us about fugitive methane emissions from unconventional gas?* published in May 2017 and the CSIRO Report *Understanding local community expectations and perceptions of the CSG sector. Social baseline assessment: Narrabri project* being distributed in hard copy. Links to the reports on the CSIRO website were distributed to members out of session.

The Chair and committee members welcomed representatives from the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) to the meeting and received an update on the number of submissions received by DPE for the Narrabri Gas Project EIS during the ninety day exhibition period which closed on the 22 May 2017. DPE referred to the content of their Departmental Media Release of 7 June 2017 which informed the public that almost 23,000 submissions, of which around 18,000 were form submissions, were received by the Department. DPE advised members that the form submissions generally objected to the project and came from a range of places within New South Wales. Overall around 300 submissions were received that were in support of the project. There were approximately 500 submissions from the local area (defined as being from the Narrabri, Boggabri and Wee Waa area), and around 5,000 submissions from interstate and almost 200 from overseas. There were 16 submissions from Government at Local, State and Federal level and approximately 100 submissions from special interest groups.

DPE have not had an opportunity as yet to go through all of the submissions in detail, but noted that sections of particular interest to the community in submissions received include: justification for project; groundwater, air, social impacts, lighting and monitoring and regulatory oversight. DPE have engaged eight experts across a variety of streams to assist in assessing technical aspects of the EIS including economic, social, hazard and risk, aboriginal cultural heritage, groundwater and ecology. An

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announcement on the appointments will be made soon and meetings will be arranged in due course by DPE with stakeholder and other interest groups.

DPE advised the committee that a copy of all submissions had been provided to Santos and were available on the DPE Major Projects website for viewing. There is no specified timeframe in which Santos is required to respond but DPE are looking to have a detailed response as soon as practicable. A Santos representative responded to the DPE presentation. DPE advised that representatives will attend a future Narrabri Gas Project CCC meeting to provide a further update on the EIS assessment process.

A DPI Water representative provided an update presentation on the program *Water Monitoring Strategy for NSW Coal Basins*. The committee was advised that the installation of three new bores at the Plumb Road site in the Pilliga East State Forest, south of Narrabri has been finalised and there has been site selection work undertaken for monitoring points in the Southern and Hunter coal fields. Two existing bores will be decommissioned including the bore located at the Old Gunnedah Road site just to the south east of Narrabri. DPI Water has disbanded their internal drilling team and are currently working with the Department of Public Works to engage an external drilling team with appropriate expertise to undertake the work.

The *Water Monitoring Strategy for NSW Coal Basin* program has a \$22M budget overall and as part of the program it is proposed to drill up to 20 monitoring bores at up to eight sites in the Gunnedah Basin. The DPI Water representative advised that he is happy to receive feedback on the proposed siting of the bores and information will be distributed to CCC members out of session on the methodology that DPI Water uses to determine monitoring bore locations. DPI Water will attend a future Narrabri Gas Project CCC meeting when site selection is finalised to update members.

As a standing agenda item, a Santos representative distributed hard copies of the Monthly Activity Updates that are also emailed to members each month and answered questions arising from the update. A copy of the Monthly Activity Update for June is available from the Narrabri Gas Project website.

An EPA representative provided a draft copy of the monthly Narrabri CCC EPA Newsletter to members for May 2017, with the final newsletter being available from the EPA website and via the subscription service.

The Narrabri Gas Project CCC meets on the second Tuesday of each month.

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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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	dcandjccameron@bigpond.com
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 Geoscience	nick.butler@industry.nsw.gov.au
Annie Moody	Santos Ltd	annie.moody@santos.com

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.