

COMMUNIQUE 25

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 Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC), the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE), and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

Summary of 17 April 2018 meeting

- Santos Activity Update
- EPA Monthly Newsletter
- Government and Santos Presentations: Plug and Abandonment process and subsequent monitoring
- Narrabri Shire Council – Community Benefit Fund
- Santos – Update on Response to Submissions for Narrabri Gas Project EIS

The Chair welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

A representative from People for the Plains tabled a number of questions to Santos and various Government departments on various subjects including the EIS assessment process; Plug and Abandonment; Sulphate Reducing Bacteria; groundwater and treated produced water for which responses will be distributed to members as they are finalised by the relevant entities and made available on the Narrabri Gas Project CCC web page.

A Santos representative provided copies of the Monthly Activity Update that is emailed to members each month and answered questions arising from the update. Copies of the Monthly Activity Updates are available from the Narrabri Gas Project website. A member asked a question to Santos in relation to whether the gas from the Narrabri Gas Project has already been sold with reference to the Santos Annual Report 2017, Strategic Risk Section (page 25). A Santos representative responded that it had not been sold and that the report refers to gas from other developed projects.

A member asked a question as to why the water from Leewood was not currently being used for irrigation to which a Santos representative responded that that the company was currently working with the Department of Primary Industries and the EPA in relation to an administrative matter associated with water use approvals for the irrigation activity.

An EPA representative provided a draft copy of the monthly Narrabri CCC EPA Newsletter to members for February - March 2018 with the final newsletter being available from the EPA website and via the subscription service. Members were reminded that EPA would like feedback on articles or subjects members would like included in future editions of the newsletter.

Representatives from the Department of Planning and Environment (Resources Regulator) and the EPA delivered a presentation titled *Decommissioning of CSG Wells* which provided an overview on well decommissioning; the legislative framework and key roles of regulatory agencies in NSW; the decommissioning process; and the different stages of plug and abandonment activity.

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A representative from Santos delivered a presentation titled *Well Design and Abandonment* which provided an overview on standards applied to well design; typical well types and design considerations; casing strings, cementing equipment and techniques; well monitoring; plugging and abandoning a well; and rehabilitation of sites.

A representative of the Narrabri Shire Council spoke about the Council's interest in how the Gas Community Benefit Fund is to be administered in the future; the potential to use existing Local Government framework to administer the fund; and the Council's objective to engage with the Minister for Resources and Energy for input into future administration of the fund. Council would like the fund aligned with local government areas rather than petroleum licence areas so funding could be used to implement outcomes identified in Strategic Planning documents.

General discussion amongst members in relation to the Gas Community Benefit Fund relevant to their area of interest such as local business, regional development, initiatives relevant to the Aboriginal community and directly to areas where project operations are occurring. Members made comment about the difficulty in engaging with Government in relation to the planned administration and framework of the fund, and their desire for local community input. A DPE representative will arrange to have an appropriate representative attend a future meeting to provide the committee with further information.

A Santos representative advised that the Narrabri Gas Project Environmental Impact Statement Response to Submissions had been submitted to the Department of Planning and Environment and that Santos had carried out further ecological and air quality assessments as well as additional assessment of the impact of the Project's operational lighting on the Siding Spring Observatory with results consistent with the findings of the Environmental Impact Statement. Santos has also made two additional commitments should the project be approved - a Social Impact Management Plan will be implemented and surface infrastructure will be excluded from Yarrie Lake Reserve.

A DPE representative indicated that the Response to Submissions document would be available from the DPE Major Projects website in due course and that it would likely be about a three month process for an assessment report to be compiled.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 12 April 2018.

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
Conrad Bolton	North West Local Land Services	conrad.bolton@lls.nsw.gov.au
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
Stuart Murray	People for the Plains	denisemurray47@gmail.com
Lynn Trindall	Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council	admin@narrabrilalc.com.au
Stephen O'Donoghue	Department of Planning and Environment	stephen.o'donoghue@planning.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.