

# COMMUNIQUE 26

## NARRABRI GAS PROJECT COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CCC)

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### 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 12 June 2018 meeting

- Santos Activity Update
- EPA Monthly Newsletter
- DPE Update

The Chair welcomed members and guests to the meeting and introduced David Scilley as the representative of NSW Farmers following election as President of Narrabri Branch. The Chair acknowledged outgoing NSW Farmers' representative Matt Norrie's contribution to the committee over his term.

Tony Pickard advised that he will return as CCC representative for People for the Plains at future meetings.

There was a general discussion amongst members of their experience and/or perception of the filming of the SBS Insight program titled *Power Divide* and the final program that was broadcast on SBS on 29 May 2018.

The People for the Plains representative advised that questions tabled at last meeting were not in final format and requested Secretariat to redistribute to members in order.

A Santos representative provided copies of the June 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 Santos representative advised that a submission will be made to NSW Government to enable additional gas from some wells in PEL 238 to go to the Wilga Park Power Station which would reduce flaring. There was a general discussion between community members and government representatives on approvals and capacity of WPPS to generate electricity for the grid as well as on renewables and base-load power more broadly in NSW.

A Santos representative advised that an offer from Harbour Energy Ltd to acquire Santos shares had been rejected and Santos had now terminated discussions with the company. A member asked if there were other companies that may come on board for the Narrabri Gas Project and a Santos representative advised that Energy Australia is currently a joint venture partner in the project.

A member requested that Santos provide a presentation to the CCC such as was made to the Narrabri Shire Council in February 2017 in relation to employment from the Narrabri Gas Project in the Narrabri area. There was general discussion about opportunities for local people in the mining and natural gas industry, employment associated with wind and solar farms and opportunities for generation of electricity in the local area.

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An EPA representative provided a draft copy of the monthly Narrabri CCC EPA Newsletter to members for April/May 2018 with the final newsletter being available from the EPA website and via the subscription service. An EPA representative advised that the newsletter has included an interest article “Oil and Gas Industry Standard Measurements” and welcomed suggestions from members for future articles.

There was a discussion on information contained within report that EPA commissioned with CSIRO titled “Methane and Volatile Organic Compound Emissions in New South Wales” that was distributed to CCC members in March 2017 with a request that this report be redistributed to members.

A member asked EPA if there had been progress on implementing Recommendation 9 of the Final Report of the Independent Review of Coal Seam Gas Activities in NSW in relation to *Environmental risk & responsibility and insurance arrangements for the NSW CSG industry*. An EPA representative advised that it is progressing and a project update report will be made at a future meeting.

A DPE representative advised that there was ongoing discussion across multiple departments within Government following receipt of Santos’ Response to Submissions and that DPE were intending to seek further information from Santos on some responses.

A DPE representative advised that with recent amendments to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* the Independent Planning Commission of NSW (IPCN) is a consent authority in its own right. As there have been more than 25 submissions received by way of objection on the project the IPCN would therefore determine the Narrabri Gas Project. In addition, the Minister for Planning may direct that a public hearing be held. However, no decision has been made to hold a hearing. Information and submissions used for the assessment and determination of the project would be publicly available on the DPE website. The IPC has recently released information guidelines in relation to Public Meetings and Public Hearings for community information and the link to these documents on the IPC website will be distributed to members.

There was a discussion on progress of the NSW Water Division monitoring bore program associated with the *Water Monitoring Strategy for Coal Basins in NSW – Gunnedah Basin* and a member provided an update from his discussions with the Division. A request will be made to NSW Water to attend a future CCC meeting to provide an update to members.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 17 July 2018.

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

| Name               | Organisation                           | Contact details                        |
|--------------------|--|--|
| David Scilley      | NSW Farmers                            | david.scilley@gmail.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.