

COMMUNIQUE 29

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 29 November 2018 meeting

- Department of Industry (DoI) Water Presentation
- Santos Update
- Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Update
- Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) Update

The Chair welcomed members and guests to the meeting. A Department of Industry (DoI) Water representative provided an update to the committee on the *Water Monitoring Strategy for Coal Basins in NSW – Gunnedah Basin* project. The project is part of the NSW Gas Plan commitment for \$22.8 million for new monitoring bores in coal basins by June 2020. The bores will establish a reference condition for water quality and quantity and enable DoI Water to observe any changes. A member asked if a copy of the Review of Environmental Factors for the project could be provided to members. DoI Water advised that REFs are not usually published but will enquire if a copy can be provided to members that are interested. The data from the monitoring bores will be available from the Water NSW website in real time as monitoring equipment is installed and brought on line. A copy of the presentation will be provided to members.

A Santos representative provided copies of the November Monthly Activity Update that is emailed to members each month and answered questions arising from the update. A member asked when Santos would be submitting the additional information requested by DPE for the Response to Submissions and a Santos representative advised that it was expected to be submitted in January 2019. A member had a number of questions in relation to soil preparation and monitoring at the irrigation area at Leewood and Santos requested the member to provide the questions in writing for a response to be prepared.

An EPA representative provided a draft copy of the monthly Narrabri CCC EPA Newsletter to members for September/October 2018 with the final newsletter being available from the EPA website and via the subscription service. A member asked if the matter associated with the water use approval at Leewood had been resolved. An EPA representative advised that Santos had been issued with an infringement notice for an administrative failure associated with the water use approval for irrigation at Leewood in October 2018 and that Santos had indicated that it would seek a review of the matter through the relevant administrative process.

A member asked how many different complainants there were for the complaints that are referred to in the Running Log in the Narrabri CCC EPA Newsletter and if there were multiple complaints from the same individual/s. The EPA advised that complainant information is held in

COMMUNIQUE 29

NARRABRI GAS PROJECT COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CCC)

confidence but a total of how many different complainants there were over the past twelve months could be provided.

A member requested that the committee reconsider a request from the last meeting to invite GISERA to a future CCC meeting to provide further information on the final reports from projects: *Decommissioning pathways for CSG projects* and *Uncertainty analysis of CSG-induced GAB flux and water balance changes in the Narrabri Gas Project area*. The committee agreed to invite a representative/s from GISERA to attend a future meeting to present on these topics.

There was a request from a member for a presentation on the proposed format and structure of a Community Consultative Committee should the Narrabri Gas Project be approved. A DPE representative advised that this matter was dependent on the outcome of the assessment process and approval conditions that may be applied at that time. A request from a member for a tax lawyer to attend a future meeting to explain the taxation requirements around payments received by landholders associated with access agreements and the Landowners Benefit Fund was not supported by the majority of members; it was considered that taxation advice would vary significantly between individuals and the different agreement/s and arrangements that they may have.

The Director of Resources Policy from the Division of Resources and Geoscience will be invited to attend a future meeting to provide an update on the framework of the Regional Community Benefit Fund and provide the committee with an overview of royalty payments associated with the *Petroleum (Onshore) Regulation 2016*.

The Secretariat raised that there had recently been social media references to matters that had purportedly been discussed at a Narrabri Gas Project CCC meeting when they had not.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 12 February 2019.

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