

# **Narrabri Gas Project Community Consultative Committee**

## **Meeting 40 – September 2019**

### **Action Item 40.3\_Response to Supplementary Questions to Santos presented at the September 2019 NGPCCC**

#### **Questions 13**

Santos is a co-sponsor of GISERA and the Projects that GISERA does: has in the past placed a GISERA link plus a short summary in the Santos Activities Up-Date for the NGP: the NGPCCC also has members that are on various panels associated with GISERA: and some of the projects in the August 2019 Newsletter apply directly to NSW and the Narrabri Gas Project.

Q.13.a. - Why is there no mention in the September 2019 Santos Activity Update handout for the NGP of the GISERA Newsletter that was sent out in late August 2019?

#### **RESPONSE:**

The GISERA August 2019 Newsletter was distributed to CCC members via email on 11 September 2019 with a link to the GISERA website included <https://gisera.csiro.au/news/gisera-newsletter-2/>.

The link has a subscription function available on that page for individuals to register to receive updates and newsletters directly from GISERA.

#### **Questions 14**

The Santos inspired Community Benefit Fund would have had a 'model' concept created in order for Santos to be able to justify the financial viability along with the Fund administration/management concepts.

Q.14.a. - Did Santos create such a concept 'model' or 'models' and how were the concept 'model/models' used?

#### **RESPONSE:**

The Chief Scientist's Independent Review of Coal Seam Gas Activities in NSW recommended the establishment of a Community Benefits Fund. This recommendation was adopted in the NSW government's 2015 Gas Plan.

Santos has committed to contributing up to \$120 million into a Community Benefits Fund, equivalent to 10 percent of total estimated royalties payable over the life of the project.

Further information on the establishment and administration of a Community Benefits Fund is available at: <https://www.resourcesandgeoscience.nsw.gov.au/landholders-and-community/coal-seam-gas/community/community-benefits-fund>.

#### **Questions 15**

At present Santos is supplying electricity from the Wilga Park power station.

Q.15.a – What, Public/Private Energy/Electricity provider is purchasing the electricity generated at the Wilga Park power station?

#### **RESPONSE:**

Power from the Wilga Park Power Station is fed into the 66kVa Essential Energy network that runs from Narrabri to Walgett.

Santos is unable to provide details on commercial arrangements associated with the operation of this facility.

## Questions 16

Santos uses different materials in their gas/water pipelines.

Q.16.a – What are the types of pipes and their material make-up for the specific product they convey?

Q.16.b – At present the gas well casings in the Narrabri area are steel. Is there any move by Santos to go away from steel to another material, If so then what type of material is being considered and why?

Q.16.c – What is the current life span of the pipelines that are already carrying products from the current CSG operation in the Narrabri area?

Q.16.d – How often and what type of testing is carried out to the structural integrity of the pipework, especially those which is buried?

## RESPONSE:

- a. The pipes used to transport low pressure gas and water are typically made of high density polyethylene (HDPE) and are designed, constructed and operated in compliance with the APIA Code of Practice – Upstream PE Gathering Networks – CSG Industry<sup>1</sup>. The code of practice provides further information including relevant standards and legislation.
- b. Santos does not intend to change the material it uses in well casing.
- c. Santos typically conducts engineering design based on a design life of 25 years though it is noted that the APIA Code of Practice – Upstream PE Gathering Networks – CSG Industry, includes a minimum potential service life of up to 100 years dependent on the material properties and/or temperature design factor.
- d. Santos has developed a system of monitoring and inspection designed to ensure the ongoing safe and reliable operation of our pipelines compliant with relevant standards. Using a risk based approach the pipeline activities conducted include:
  - Ongoing monitoring of temperature to ensure the average temperature does not exceed the maximum average temperature applicable for the selected design life;
  - Water Removal/Drainage - Periodic water removal / drainage. Applicable to Manifold / Risers in Gas Gathering Network and manual LPDs;
  - Critical Function Testing (CFT) of critical components (1 to 2 yearly depending on component being tested);
  - Right of way inspections (minimum monthly);
  - Leak detection and monitoring program (minimum bi-annual);
  - Ongoing monitoring of pipeline pressures and flowrates;
  - CP survey of steel lines (annual).

## Questions 17a

In the Santos “Petroleum Production Environmental Operations Plan for PPL3, dated May 2019”, there is a statement on the bottom of page 4 and reads as shown below:

The Coonarah Gas Pipeline is currently not in use as it has been isolated from the Coonarah wells. Until recently it was filled with bore water and biocide. In November 2018, the pipeline was dewatered in preparation

Petroleum Production Licence 3

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Q.17.a – Will Santos please explain why, If there are NO bacteria in the Gas wells, as has previously been stated by Santos personnel, and therefore none in the mentioned gas pipeline, then why the use of biocide in the water used to fill the Coonarah Gas Pipeline?

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.apga.org.au/sites/default/files/uploaded-content/website-content/apia-pe-cop-for-upstream-pe-gathering-networks-csg-industry-v3-and-supplementary-0515.pdf>

**RESPONSE:**

Biocide is used to maintain the quality of bore water in the pipeline. The pipeline was dewatered in November 2018.

**Questions 17b**

Also in the same publication on page 10 under 4.1 “Overview of environment”, there is the following:

Petroleum Production Environmental Operations Plan May 2019



## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

### 4.1 Overview of environment

PPL 3 comprises cleared agricultural land. Ecological, heritage and other environmental investigations were undertaken as part of the development approvals process for the Coonarah Gas Field. Subsequent investigations of PPL 3 have been carried out as part of the approvals process for exploration and appraisal activities and the Narrabri Gas Project. These investigations have not identified any areas of particular environmental, ecological or cultural sensitivity. Key findings of the relevant investigations are summarised below.

- A detailed field survey of PPL 3 was undertaken by a representative of the Narrabri Aboriginal Land Council in 2002. The survey identified a scarred tree of potential significance located on the margin of the Coonarah gas pipeline route, and three bush-wood plants adjacent to the gas pipeline route. All these trees were located outside the area of disturbance of the pipeline and gathering system and not impacted by activities in PPL 3.

Q 17.b – Will Santos please provide the exact location on the Coonarah Gas pipeline route map of the findings as mentioned in the above dot point?

Q.17.c – Will Santos provide a copy, or a working link to a copy of the 2002 “detailed field study of PPL3” as described in the dot point above?

A precedent for Santos to accede to the above requests has been set with the inclusion of the comprehensive Cultural Heritage Assessment as found in Appendix A of the “Tintsfeld Water Management Facility | Review of Environmental Factors, with the date of June 2019”.

**RESPONSE:**

The Narrabri Gas Project Cultural Heritage Management Plan provides the framework for the management of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and is documented in the Narrabri Gas Project Response to Submissions Appendix J which is available from the Department of Planning and Environment Major Projects website at - <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/10716>

Santos is not able to disclose information it receives relating to cultural heritage or cultural values without the consent of the Aboriginal Cultural Working Group except where disclosure is required by law.

Santos provides information on cultural heritage records to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) for inclusion in the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database and to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Register.

Interested parties can search the publicly available AHIMS database to find out if an Aboriginal Place, Aboriginal object, or an Aboriginal site has been recorded in a particular area from the search function available on the DPIE website at <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/aboriginal-cultural-heritage/protect-and-manage/protection-of-aboriginal-places-objects-and-sites>

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