

# Narrabri Gas Project

A proudly Australian company, Santos is a leading supplier of natural gas, a fuel for the future providing clean energy to improve the lives of people in Australia and Asia.

Santos is already Australia's biggest supplier of domestic gas and aims to be a leading Asia-Pacific LNG supplier. For more than 65 years, Santos has been working in partnership with local communities, providing Australian jobs and business opportunities, safely and sustainably developing Australia's natural gas resources, and powering Australian industries and households. For more information visit [www.santos.com](http://www.santos.com).

Santos is seeking approval to develop a project to produce natural gas from coal seams near Narrabri. Santos has committed that 100 per cent of Narrabri gas will be supplied to the domestic market.

## Project update

Following extensive assessment of Santos' application to develop the Narrabri Gas Project, the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment has provided its final assessment report to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) for determination, concluding that the Project is capable of approval with strict conditions. The IPC has established a Panel of Commissioners to make the determination for the Project. Commissioners Steve O'Connor (Panel Chair), John Hann and Professor Snow Barlow have been appointed to the Panel. The NSW Planning Minister has requested the IPC to hold public hearings and make a determination within 12 weeks of receiving the final assessment report. The report was provided to the IPC on 12 June 2020 with determination therefore anticipated in early September 2020.



## What does the report say?

The detailed assessment report was informed by extensive community consultation and advice from the Narrabri Shire Council, government agencies and independent experts, including a Water Expert Panel established specifically for this investigation.

The report concluded that the Narrabri Gas Project:

- + Is critical for energy security and reliability in NSW
- + Delivers significant economic benefits to NSW and the Narrabri region and would stimulate economic recovery from the effects of COVID-19
- + Has been designed to minimise any impacts on the region's significant water resources, including the Great Artesian Basin, the biodiversity and heritage values of the Pilliga State Forest, and the health and safety of the local community
- + Would not result in any significant impacts on people or the environment.

The report found that the economic benefits of the Narrabri Gas Project included:

- + Creation of 1300 construction jobs
- + 200 local, ongoing jobs
- + A \$14.5 million Voluntary Planning Agreement with Narrabri Shire Council.

The 196-page report also confirmed the Project would comply with relevant government legislation and noted at least 10 reasons why it was unlikely to adversely affect the region's groundwater resources. These included that:

- + The target coal seams are very deep, at least 350-650 metres deeper than 97 per cent of productive groundwater bores
- + There is no evidence of any geological structure that could create a pathway between the shallower aquifers and the coal seams.

Based on this assessment, the NSW Government has recommended approval subject to strict conditions. Santos would accept, implement and comply with all the conditions proposed by the Government if the Project is approved.

## Santos' track record

Santos has been supplying natural gas to New South Wales customers from South Australia's Cooper Basin for nearly 45 years. Today, NSW still imports around 95 per cent of its natural gas needs from other states. Santos' proposed Narrabri Gas Project would allow NSW to develop and use its own gas resources, improving energy security and reducing gas transport costs.

The large natural gas resource in the Narrabri area was first discovered in the Pilliga scrub in the 1960s and the Narrabri Gas Project was announced in July 2013.

Gas from appraisal wells is already supplying Santos' Wilga Park Power Station which generates enough electricity for the equivalent of 23,000 households in northwest NSW. This number will increase to 32,000 households when two new generators at the power station are fully commissioned in the middle of this year.

Santos is already an important part of the Narrabri community, spending \$2 million on local goods and services last year and employing 16 people who live locally with their families.

Santos has committed 100 per cent of gas from the Narrabri Gas Project to the domestic market and it would provide cleaner and cheaper energy to support the more than one million homes, 33,000 businesses and 300,000 jobs in NSW that rely on natural gas.

Santos has relied on the best science to confirm that the Project can be delivered safely and sustainably, without harm to water resources or the environment.

## What is the IPC's process?

The whole-of-government assessment report on the Project is publicly available on the IPC's website at [www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/projects/2020/03/narrabri-gas-project](http://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/projects/2020/03/narrabri-gas-project).

The IPC Panel, chaired by Steve O'Connor, will now:

- + Review the assessment report
- + Review comments and submissions received on the report
- + Conduct a site visit
- + Conduct stakeholder meetings
- + Hold public hearings and hear from stakeholders who register to speak at the hearings
- + Consider any proposed draft conditions recommended by the Department
- + Make a final determination on the Project.

## Find out more

The Narrabri Gas Project website ([www.narrabrigasproject.com.au](http://www.narrabrigasproject.com.au)) includes Project information, news and activity updates. Since December 2014, the Narrabri Gas Project Community Consultative Committee (CCC), consisting of representatives from government, key industry and community organisations, and Santos, has met regularly to provide the community with updates on the Project and to listen to their feedback. Meeting documents are published on the website.



## Have your say

The IPC's website allows you to leave a comment, upload a written submission or register your interest (by 10 July 2020) to speak during the public hearings. You can express your support for, or opposition to the Project, and give your reasons why. Electronic hearings will be held by the Panel from Monday, 20 July 2020 to Friday, 24 July 2020 and written comments on the Narrabri Gas Project will be accepted up to one week after the hearing via email, post or through the online portal: [www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/have-your-say](http://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/have-your-say).

For further information, please visit [www.narrabrigasproject.com.au](http://www.narrabrigasproject.com.au) or email [energy.nsw@santos.com](mailto:energy.nsw@santos.com)