

Narrabri Gas Project (PEL 238) Monthly Activities Update

February 2023

Santos



Community Highlights



Narrabri's VPA confirmed ahead of Santos Festival of Rugby

The largest voluntary planning agreement (VPA) ever entered into by the Narrabri Shire Council has officially been ratified between the Council and Santos.

The \$14.5 million Santos VPA means the Narrabri community will significantly benefit from Santos' operations in the region, with the agreement delivering a range of key infrastructure upgrades in the town and surrounding area.

Santos Managing Director and CEO, Kevin Gallagher, said officially entering into the partnership with Narrabri Shire Council demonstrates Santos' commitment to the region.

"Santos has been committed to Narrabri for many years now and while the VPA has been discussed for some time, I'm pleased that Council took the final steps needed to formalise the partnership at the end of last year," Kevin said.

To read more, please click [here](#).



In partnership with Queensland Rugby Union and New South Wales Rugby Union, Santos was pleased to present the Santos Festival of Rugby from 10-11 February 2023. For the first time in the event's history, the fixtures included women's Reds and Waratahs Super W teams going head-to-head, and it reiterated how proud Santos is of its sporting partnerships and the changes we can drive as an organisation – especially in women's sport.

More than 5,000 people attended the two-day Festival and it was great to see support for the event coming from across the entire region.

The centrepiece of the festival was once again the pre-season game between the Queensland Reds and New South Wales Waratahs Super Rugby teams, which was a hard fought battle with the NSW Waratahs retaining The Santos Cup for the third year in a row with a 33-32 win.

In the Super W clash between the Queensland Reds and NSW Waratahs, two former Narrabri Blue Boar women's players, Martha Harvey and Brooke McKinnon, made their debuts for the Waratahs in front of their home town crowd. In very hot conditions the game was tightly contested with both sides going to the half time break scoreless. NSW Waratahs went on to win The Santos Cup with the full time score 13-5.

The annual celebration of rugby also included elite Sevens, country representative matches and men's and women's Super Rugby fixtures.

Other highlights of the Festival were junior coaching clinics and family fun activities. There were live concerts on the Friday and Saturday nights with performances by star country music acts Brad Cox and Casey Barnes. To read more click [here](#).



Hunter Gas Pipeline

On 11 August 2022, Santos announced the acquisition of Hunter Gas Pipeline Pty Ltd which owns an approved underground gas pipeline route from Wallumbilla in Queensland to Newcastle in New South Wales. The underground pipeline route passes close to Santos' Narrabri Gas Project and our goal is to work with infrastructure developers and owners to construct the pipeline and deliver much-needed gas to east coast domestic markets in the shortest timeframe possible. The pipeline will also be designed to transport hydrogen as customer demand evolves during the energy transition. In order to transport, a modification to the existing approval would be required.

Our land access team continues to reach out to landholders and are making every effort to contact all landholders along the route to ensure they have an opportunity to ask questions or provide feedback about the proposed pipeline alignment. Land survey investigations will assist in the design and environmental assessment of the potential pipeline alignment. Land survey investigations are non-invasive and have minimal impact on daily landholder operations. We hope to reach voluntary access agreements with all landholders.

In January 2023, the NSW Government approved an Authority to Survey (ATS) application that was lodged in July 2022.

Santos will only use the ATS as a last resort in instances where all reasonable attempts to contact and negotiate access with the landholder or resident for the purpose of field surveys have been unsuccessful. More information about the ATS is available in our FAQ document on our Hunter Gas Pipeline website.

[HGP website](#)

[HGP Interactive map](#)

Community Consultation

Community Consultative Committee

A condition of the IPC consent for the Narrabri Gas Project is the establishment and operation of a Community Consultative Committee in accordance with the Department's Community Consultative Committee Guidelines: State Significant Projects. The NSW Department of Planning and Environment has appointed Mr Garry West to the position of Independent Chair of the committee.

The purpose of a Community Consultative Committee is to provide a forum for discussion between a proponent and representatives of the community, stakeholder groups and the local council on issues directly relating to a specific State significant project.

The next meeting of the Narrabri Gas Project Community Consultative Committee will be held on Tuesday, 18 May 2023.

NGP Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

NGP Advisory Groups

A condition of the IPC consent for the Narrabri Gas Project is the establishment and operation of a number of advisory groups. The NSW Department of Planning and Environment has appointed Mr Garry West to the position of Independent Chair of these Advisory Groups.

These groups provide a forum for open dialogue between Santos, independent experts, key stakeholder groups and the local community.

- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Group
- Biodiversity Advisory Group
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Advisory Group
- Water Technical Advisory Group

NGP Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

Narrabri Lateral Pipeline

The Narrabri Lateral Pipeline will connect the approved Narrabri Gas Project (NGP) and Hunter Gas Pipeline (HGP), transporting natural gas to the existing transmission network near Newcastle.

On 9 December 2022, the NSW Government declared the Narrabri Lateral Pipeline a Critical State Significant Infrastructure project on the basis that it is deemed essential to NSW for economic reasons.

Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) were issued by the NSW Government on 9 February 2023 which specify what issues are required to be addressed within the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Santos will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, which will be subject to extensive community consultation and a full environmental assessment.

The Narrabri Lateral Pipeline SEARs can be viewed on the NSW Planning portal website [here](#).

Operations Update



Drilling activities

Santos has commenced drilling of shallow water monitoring bores in line with project approvals.



Pilot Wells

Bibblewindi East, Bibblewindi West and Dewhurst South pilot wells are all online.



Leewood

Santos does not need to irrigate at this time and water is stored in the holding ponds at Leewood.



Wilga Park Power Station

The Wilga Park Power Station is online.



Other activities

Groundwater monitoring activities for Environmental Protection Licence compliance are ongoing.

Ecological surveys will be undertaken through February to support reporting obligations and planning for future activities.

The PEL 1 seismic activity has concluded.



Project Approvals

NSW Government

On 30 September 2020, the NSW Independent Planning Commission (IPC) approved the Narrabri Gas with the Commission concluding that the Project is in the public interest and that any negative impacts can be effectively mitigated with strict conditions.

[Santos Media Release](#)[IPCN approval link](#)

Australian Government

On 24 November 2020, the Federal Minister for the Environment approved the Narrabri Gas Project pursuant to Sections 130(1) and 133(1) of the EPBC Act, subject to conditions.

[Santos Media Release](#)[EBPC approval link](#)

Santos will undertake an appraisal program ahead of a Final Investment Decision for the next phase of project development. Santos continues work on the preparation and approval of the management plans required as a condition of consent by IPC.

Copies of plans approved by the NSW Department of Planning Industry and Environment are available from the Narrabri Gas Project website.

[Approved Management Plans](#)



Native Title

Santos notes the determination of the National Native Title Tribunal handed down on Monday 19 December 2022, that proposed future acts, being the grants of Petroleum Production Lease Application Numbers 13, 14, 15 and 16 for the Narrabri Gas Project, may be done. On 13 January 2023, the Gomeroi People filed an appeal in the Federal Court of Australia in respect to this determination.

The Tribunal imposed a condition, in each case, that Santos takes all necessary steps to ensure the Additional Research Program – as identified in paragraph 5.7 of the Narrabri Gas Project Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan – be implemented. This must be completed prior to the commencement of Phase 2 of the Narrabri Gas Project, pursuant to the Development Consent granted by the Independent Planning Commission of New South Wales on 30 September 2020.

Santos will continue to engage constructively with the Gomeroi people and work closely with them to ensure their heritage is protected and they benefit from the project development in a range of ways, including through training and employment, and involvement in all aspects of their cultural heritage protection and management.

Santos has a strong track record of working collaboratively with First Nations peoples in Australia and internationally. The company has a range of cultural heritage and native title agreements in place with 23 Traditional Owner Groups and six Aboriginal Land Councils around Australia.

Santos has been consulting and working with the Gomeroi people since 2012, and in formal negotiations regarding the Narrabri Gas Project since 2015.

Narrabri natural gas is essential to ensure Australia's energy transition to renewables and cleaner energy technologies maintains both energy security and affordability for all Australians over the coming decades.