

Annual Community Consultation Report Petroleum Exploration Licence No. 1



For reporting period 11 February 2022 to 10 February 2023

Licence Renewal Date:	12 April 2022
Licence Expiry Date:	12 April 2028
Licence Holders:	Santos QNT Pty Ltd Australian Coalbed Methane Pty Ltd
Project Operator:	Santos QNT Pty Ltd
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1. Executive summary

Santos Limited and Australian Coalbed Methane Pty Ltd have appointed Santos QNT Pty Ltd as the Operator for Petroleum Exploration Licence No. 1 (PEL 1). PEL 1 is located in northern NSW and is located around the township of Gunnedah. PEL 1 was renewed for a term of six years on 12 April 2022. The tenement covers a contiguous area of approximately 3,924 square kilometres. Santos facilitates community consultation activities for the Narrabri Gas Project (the Project) on a 'whole-of-project' basis, which includes PPLAs 13, 14, 15, 16, PELs 1, 12, 238, 427, Petroleum Assessment Lease 2 and Petroleum Production Lease 3.

A comprehensive Community Consultation and Engagement Plan for PEL 1 has been updated annually since 2013; stakeholders have been identified; and risk-based assessments are undertaken regarding the level of impact or benefit that activities may have on stakeholders and the community. It is Santos' intention to maintain a mature relationship with stakeholders in this licence area, and for the past eight years, Santos has conducted engagement and consultation activities that have provided stakeholders and community members with numerous opportunities to learn about, contribute to, and express concerns about Santos' activities.

Following a detailed review, the NSW Independent Planning Commission (IPC) approved the Project on 30 September 2020, concluding that the Project is in the public interest and that any impacts can be effectively mitigated through strict conditions. Following a review of the New South Wales assessment, the Federal Minister for the Environment approved the project on 24 November 2020 under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

In November 2020, the NSW Government released the Strategic Opportunities for Gas in Regional NSW^[1] statement. This statement outlines its support for the domestic gas industry as a source of new jobs and opportunities. Subsequently, the NSW Government released its Future of Gas Statement^[2], which outlines plans to deliver secure, reliable, and affordable gas supply opportunities for NSW. In the statement, it is concluded that gas-based industries have a "bright future in regional NSW" and support is given to the development of the Narrabri Gas Project.

The feedback received from stakeholders, landholders, and the local community regarding these commitments and the approval of the Project has been very positive. After a lengthy environmental assessment process, these announcements have provided the Narrabri community with confidence that the State and Federal Governments are committed to supporting the project. Community members are optimistic that they will be able to begin to reap the benefits from enhanced economic development and job creation through the Project, and that gas from the Narrabri area will provide a secure energy source for broader economic benefits and opportunities for the State.

Following the Project approval, community engagement activities have been primarily geared towards implementing the conditions of consent for the Project, which have involved significant community involvement in the establishment of the Narrabri Gas Project Community Consultative Committee (CCC), four advisory groups, and preparing, updating, and consulting on the Project Management Plans. As part of the renewal process for Petroleum Exploration Licences in PEL 1 and other tenements held by Santos in NSW, Santos has been in contact with a variety of state and local government entities, stakeholders, landholders, and the community, to provide information on proposed activities and respond to questions in a timely manner.

Santos welcomed the renewal of PEL 1 and other tenements held by Santos in NSW on April 12, 2022. With this announcement, Santos has been granted renewal rights for the PEL 1 and other tenements it holds in NSW until 12 April 2028. This will enable Santos to continue exploration and appraisal activities in the region.

Key outcomes of Santos' ongoing community consultation and engagement have been:

- Continued to raise awareness of the Project and outcomes and conditions associated with the Project approval;
- Provided access to technical specialists to assist in understanding and interpreting information;
- Strengthened relationships with stakeholders, decision-makers, supporters and opponents of the Project;
- Maintained established processes to assist in managing and minimising the risk of conflict and resolved issues as they arose;
- Provided factual information and updates to landholders and the community relating to government announcements and the PEL renewal process; and

- Facilitated positive Aboriginal cultural heritage outcomes by consulting with relevant parties and encouraging them to participate in decision making regarding the management of their cultural heritage.

Santos continues to distribute Monthly Activity Updates to subscribers and monthly advertisements in the Narrabri Courier and Wee Waa News of activities being undertaken. The Narrabri Shopfront has been open when Public Health Order restrictions allow, and staff continue to be available to answer questions from stakeholders and members of the community by telephone and email throughout the period.

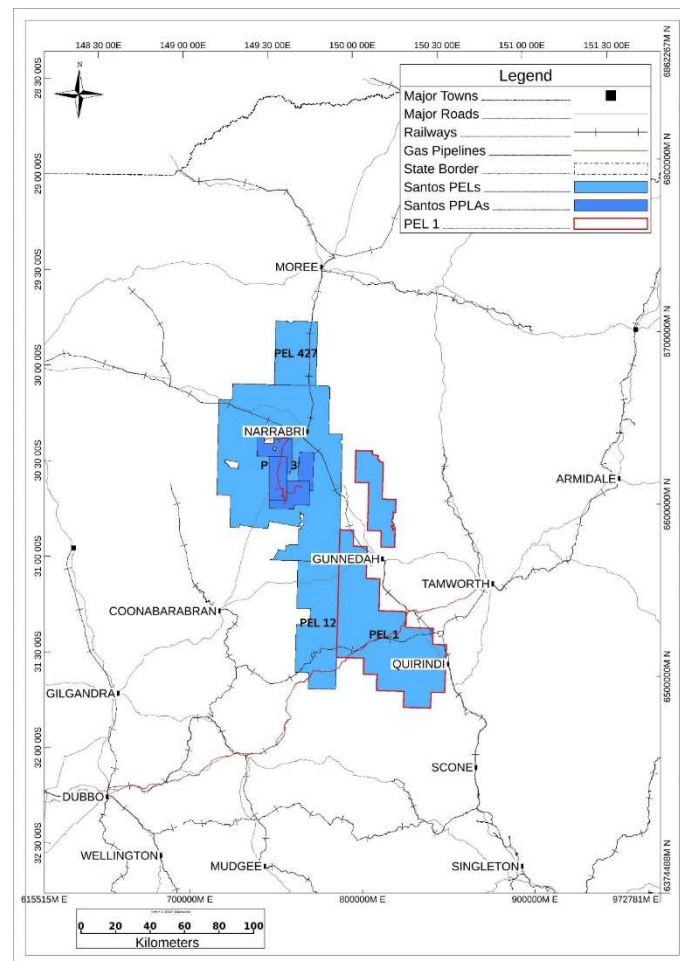
Santos will continue to monitor and promptly address matters of topical interest or concern for stakeholders and the community relating to the PEL 1 exploration and appraisal programs. Distribution of information continues through established communication channels, focusing on the Narrabri Local Government Area with targeted consultation and engagement with stakeholders in other areas as required.

^[1] NSW Government. (November 2020). Strategic Opportunities for Gas in Regional NSW. https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-11/Strategic%20Opportunities%20for%20Gas%20in%20Regional%20NSW%20statement%20_0.pdf

^[2] NSW Government, Department of Regional NSW. (July 2021). Future of Gas Statement. <https://www.nsw.gov.au/regional-nsw/future-of-gas-statement>

2. Consultation activities

Figure 1: PEL 1 Location Map



2.1 Community overview

PEL 1 is located in northern NSW and is situated around the township of Gunnedah. The tenement covers a contiguous area of approximately 3,924 square kilometres. The smaller towns of Curlewis and Breeza are located within the PEL, and other nearby towns (but outside the PEL) include Quirindi, Mullaley, Boggabri and Werris Creek.

In addition to being within Parkes and New England Federal Government electoral boundaries, PEL 1 is also within the boundary of the State Government electoral boundary Tamworth, as well as the local government areas (LGAs) of Gunnedah, Liverpool Plains, Narrabri and Tamworth.

Gunnedah LGA covers an area of 4,494 square kilometres and is centred on the town of Gunnedah. According to the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data for 2021, the population of the Gunnedah Local Government Area (LGA) is approximately 12,933 people, with approximately 9,726 residing in the Gunnedah suburb.

According to the 2021 ABS data, coal mining is the largest employment category in the Gunnedah LGA, employing 831 individuals, accounting for 12.8 percent of the workforce. Several open-cut and underground coal mines operate within the Gunnedah and Narrabri Shires, with the majority of the residential workforce based in Gunnedah. Agriculture is the second largest employer with 758 employees.

2.2 Focus of community consultation activities

As per the Exploration code of practice: Community Consultation (October 2022, Department of Regional NSW) stakeholders in PEL 1 have been identified using a risk-based assessment tool which examines the level of impact or benefit those activities may potentially have on stakeholders and the community; and relevant engagement methods and communication tools have been considered and are in place.

The aim of the Community Consultation Plan and community engagement activities is to keep stakeholders informed of proposed activities within the licence area and answer questions that they may have in relation to those activities, Santos' activities more broadly in NSW and the natural gas industry in general. The focus of engagement in and around the PEL 1 is to increase understanding of the natural gas industry within the community; ongoing liaison with landholders to facilitate future land access arrangements; and liaison with State and Local Government officials and elected representatives.

During the reporting period, activities have been undertaken in accord with the Exploration code of practice: Community Consultation (October 2022, Department of Regional NSW). Outcomes of Santos' ongoing community consultation and engagement activities are:

- Implementing its Stakeholder Engagement Strategy across all of its permits in New South Wales;
- Maintaining a variety of contact mechanisms including a generic email, information phone line and website feedback;
- Provided information to stakeholders and the broader community; and provided opportunities for interaction and feedback;
- Promoting a consultative process with landholders across all permit areas to give the community further confidence that Santos seeks respectful, long-term relationships with landholders;
- Santos being an active participant, sponsor and exhibitor at regional community events, field days and agricultural shows;
- Strengthened relationships with Aboriginal community members by consulting with relevant parties and increasing knowledge of the gas industry and Santos' work program in NSW; and
- Continued to implement a consultation framework with activities relevant to the specific exploration program, the resources available and the scale of the project.

Community information sessions were facilitated in the township of Gunnedah to inform and engage the public regarding the Bando 2D Seismic Project and Kahlua Reactivation Project. Santos maintains relationships and agreements with a number of landholders where previous activities have been undertaken, including the Kahlua site. Santos also continues to be an active participant, sponsor and exhibitor at regional community events, field days and agricultural shows. Attendance at these events provides stakeholders and community members with an opportunity to provide feedback and have access to accurate information on proposed exploration and appraisal activities.

Santos is a participating member of the Gunnedah and Chamber of Commerce and Industry and provides regular updates to the Chamber on our activities in the area and more broadly in NSW. The Operator also has a program of consultation with local and State Government representatives.

Site tours of Santos' Narrabri operations, and on occasion our existing facility at Kahlua is also hosted upon request for specific stakeholder groups subject to health and safety protocols and weather conditions. These tours can include technical staff from various disciplines including our engineering, environment and drilling and completions teams. Technical representatives address the specific interests of the stakeholder group by presenting information relevant to their area of expertise and answering questions that attendees may have in relation to the Operator's activities.

Santos has a number of strategies targeted at the different needs and requirements of our various stakeholders and the community to inform and consult on our proposed work program being undertaken. This includes the provision of information through our website and media announcements; advertisements and articles in regional NSW media outlets; a shopfront providing information in Narrabri; Community Site Tours to our active operations area in PEL 238 to demonstrate how our activities are undertaken; personnel available in PEL 1 area; and information stands at agricultural shows and community events.

These consultation tools enable the Operator to recognise and address community concerns early; ensure that identified community stakeholders are informed of the proposed schedule for implementing the work program for the licence and notified prior to the commencement of relevant activities; and that community consultation feedback is monitored and responded to.

The Gomeroi People's native title claim extends over PELs 1, 12, 238 and 427 and Santos has continued to ensure the Gomeroi native title applications (NT Applicants) are informed in relation to Santos' current and planned activities within PEL 1.

In addition, Santos has an ongoing Community Investment Program which provides grants and sponsorships, staff volunteer activities, and equipment loans to local community groups, sporting organisations, schools, and not-for-profit organisations. During the reporting period, these community initiatives contributed more than \$180,000.00, benefiting more than 30 local organisations across the PEL 238 and PEL 1 areas.

Highlights of the Santos Community Investment Program for PEL 1 during the reporting period include:

- 2022 Wean Picnic Races
- 2022 Gunnedah Show Society Campdraft

2.3 Consultation tools

An extensive range of consultation tools and activities have been used to conduct genuine and effective consultation with a very diverse community. The PEL 1 exploration and appraisal program and the Project proposal have provided multiple opportunities for both targeted stakeholder groups and the wider community to participate and provide feedback.

Table 1: Consultation tools

Consultation tools	Description of activity
Project contact information	– A generic email address Energy.NSW@santos.com and contact telephone number are included on all printed material to ensure the community can seek information on work program activities and provide feedback.
Website	– Santos maintains a project website narrabrigasproject.com.au with current information, minutes from CCC meetings and Advisory groups, environmental approvals and forthcoming activities.
Fact sheets	– Fact sheets are available to support consultation activities and provide a detailed overview of activities undertaken within PEL 1.
Monthly activity updates	– A monthly activity update for PEL 238 including activities updates for other projects in NSW tenements, is prepared and emailed to key stakeholders including Government agencies, key industry and community organisations and other subscribers providing an update on current and future activities.
Media updates	– Santos provides information through print media including advertisements and media releases on key announcements.
Shopfront	– Santos maintains a shopfront in Narrabri that has printed information and displays aimed to build awareness and understanding of project objectives and staff available to answer questions.
Community site tours	– Community site tours to visit operations sites in PEL 1 have been limited to an on-request basis during the reporting period due to health and safety protocols and inclement weather conditions.
Community information sessions	– Community information sessions are scheduled which are open to the public to provide information and opportunity for potential issues to be raised and responses provided relating to specific activities that are proposed. These are advertised in local newspapers.
Face to face meetings	– Regular meetings are scheduled with key stakeholders to provide information and opportunity for potential issues to be raised and addressed

Consultation tools	Description of activity
Attendance at community events and agricultural shows	– Santos attends local agricultural shows, AgQuip and other relevant community events to enable the community to seek information on Santos' activities and provide feedback
Community participation	– Santos participates in relevant local groups and committees to ensure that current information is provided on Santos' activities and potential issues are identified and resolved.

2.4 Stakeholder Identification and Activities Undertaken

PEL 1 stakeholders have been grouped according to their level of interest in the work program and the potential impact of exploration and appraisal activities:

- Local, State and Federal Government departments and elected representatives
- Industry groups and regional organisations
- Landholders
- Local Aboriginal communities and Aboriginal Land Councils
- Local community
- Local businesses and contractors
- Media

In order to ensure that changes in stakeholder needs and requirements are considered and incorporated into the Community Consultation Plan and delivery framework, the level of engagement and participation of stakeholders as well as their desired level of involvement are continuously monitored and re-evaluated.

Table 2: Consultation activities undertaken by stakeholder group

Local, State and Federal Government departments and elected representatives	
Objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Consult with relevant agencies to progress the exploration and appraisal of PEL 1 – Keep government informed of PEL 1 activities and ensure timely and relevant information provided to elected representatives and departmental staff – Build awareness and understanding of PEL 1 objectives and benefits among departmental staff and elected representatives – Promote two-way communication to ensure that the concerns of the community are identified early and addressed appropriately 	
Stakeholder group	Activities
Local government	
Gunnedah Shire Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Briefings to General Manager, Mayor and Councillors as required – Meetings with project officers in relation to operational matters (e.g., roads, planning) – Presentations to Council and consultation on proposed future activities – Monthly activity update on the Project website and emailed directly to subscribers
State government	
NSW Environment Protection Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Face-to-face meetings – Field tours and inspections – Technical consultations – Regular meetings in relation to regulatory activities – Monthly activity update on the Project website and emailed directly to subscribers
NSW Resources Regulator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Face-to-face meetings – Field tours and inspections – Technical consultations and meetings in relation to regulatory activities

Department of Regional NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face-to-face meetings Monthly activity update Liaison with project officers in Mining, Exploration and Geoscience and Title Services for tenure administration Liaison with project officers as landholders in PEL tenure as required (Lands Division, NPWS)
Department of Planning and Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face-to-face meetings Meetings in relation to regulatory activities Technical consultations and Project briefings Monthly activity update on the Project website and emailed directly to subscribers
NSW Department of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly activity update on the Project website and emailed directly to subscribers
NSW Police Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face-to-face meetings Project briefings at key activity milestones Santos desktop emergency training exercise participants Consultations associated with staff welfare and site security Monthly Activity Update on the Project website and emailed directly to subscribers
Federal government	
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical consultations, meetings and presentations Monthly activity update
CSIRO Gas Industry Social Environmental Research Alliance (GISERA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly activity update Technical consultations in relation to PEL 1 Project briefings at key activity milestones Santos representative on the Regional Research Advisory Committee
Industry groups and regional organisations	
Objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult with key stakeholders to progress the exploration and appraisal of PEL 1 Raise awareness of PEL 1 exploration and appraisal activities, the Project and natural gas industry in NSW Provide an opportunity for engagement on specific areas of interest to their organisation Consult with members in relation to the management and mitigation of potential impacts relevant to the organisation and communicate project benefits Promote two-way communication to ensure that the concerns of the community are identified early and addressed appropriately 	
Stakeholder group	Activities
Industry groups	
Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face-to-face meetings as required Project briefings / information on key initiatives Activity updates as required
Joint Venture Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face-to-face meetings as required Project briefings / information on key initiatives Technical committee meetings Activity updates as required Monthly activity updates
Regional organisations	
NSW Farmers Association (local level)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly Activity Update on the Project website and emailed directly to subscribers
Country Women's Association (local level)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly activity update on the Project website and emailed directly to subscribers
Namoi Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly activity update on the Project website and emailed directly to subscribers

Local Land Services North West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly activity update on the Project website and emailed directly to subscribers
Cotton Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly activity update on the Project website and emailed directly to subscribers
Upper Namoi Cotton Growers Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly activity update on the Project website and emailed directly to subscribers
Regional Development Australia – Northern Inland NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representative (through Narrabri Chamber of Commerce) on Narrabri Gas Project CCC Monthly activity update on the Project website and emailed directly to subscribers

Landholders (direct, activity area, regional context and government)

Objective:

- Consult with key stakeholders to progress the exploration and appraisal of PEL 1
- Build landholder awareness and understanding of relevant project objectives and benefits
- Inform and actively engage landholders to ensure accurate, timely and relevant information is provided
- Provide technical information needed to understand the activities that we propose and provide updates on timing and scope of Santos' activities
- Build relationships with landholders to ensure Santos has a clear understanding of landholder issues and resolution of these issues
- Foster open and transparent dialogue between Santos and the agricultural communities in which we operate

Stakeholder group	Activities
Private landholders – direct: Landholders that host Santos activities on their property and with which Santos has an access agreement (for example, Exploration Land Access Agreement, easement, written consent to undertake environmental studies).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular face-to-face meetings as required Technical consultations in relation to activities Written and verbal notification of survey, environmental investigations, and activities on their land Monthly activity update on the Project website and emailed directly to subscribers Correspondence and fact sheet regarding proposed seismic activity.
Private landholders – activity area: Landholders in the PEL 1 area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular face-to-face meetings as required Small number of field tours for stakeholders based on demand and inclement weather. Technical consultations in relation to proposed activities Written and verbal notification of survey, environmental investigations, and activities on their land Monthly activity update on the Project website and emailed directly to subscribers Attended NSW Farmers' Conference networking event in July 2022 Santos information stall at AgQuip August 2022 Correspondence and fact sheet regarding proposed seismic activity.
Private landholders – regional context: Regional context: Landholders in PEL 1 or other tenements that Santos has in NSW.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement and consultation with landholders in the regional context has been undertaken through established industry representative bodies such as NSW Farmers, Cotton Australia, Local Land Services and Local Government representatives. Small number of field tours for stakeholders based on demand and inclement weather. Monthly Activity Update on the Project website and emailed directly to subscribers Information communicated through media outlets and other established communication channels Attended NSW Farmers' Conference networking event in July 2022 Santos information stall at AgQuip August 2022

Government landholders

Forestry Corporation of NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly Activity Update on the Project website and emailed directly to subscribers Regular face-to-face meetings as required Technical consultations in relation to activities Written and verbal notification of survey, environmental investigations, and activities on their land
Gunnedah Shire Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings and presentations to General Manager, Mayor and councillors as required Technical consultations in relation to the proposed activities Meetings with project officers in relation to operational matters (e.g., roads, planning) Written notification of environmental surveys and investigations on Council administered land Monthly activity update on the Project website and emailed directly to subscribers
DPE (Crown Lands)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written notification of environmental surveys and investigations on Crown Lands administered land Monthly activity update on the Project website and emailed directly to subscribers
Local Land Services North West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations with staff in relation to pest and weed management activities in regional area Monthly activity update on the Project website and emailed directly to subscribers
National Parks and Wildlife Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly activity update on the Project website and emailed directly to subscribers

Local Aboriginal communities and Aboriginal Land Councils

Objective:

- Consult with key Aboriginal community members to assess the potential benefits and impacts associated with the exploration and appraisal activities in PEL 1
- Provide opportunities for Aboriginal community members ask questions and raise matters about project activity to ensure the community remains informed of activities
- Consult with the community to explore and promote opportunities for Aboriginal participation
- Continue to consult with the Gomeroi applicant group in relation to proposed activities and where required negotiate a Native Title agreement (if relevant to specific activities)

Stakeholder group	Activities
Red Chief Local Aboriginal Land Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face-to-face meetings as required Provision of information relating to proposed exploration activity within PEL 1. Monthly activity Update on the Project website and emailed directly to subscribers
Native Title and Gomeroi Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of information relating to proposed exploration activity within PEL 1. Monthly activity Update on the Project website and emailed directly to subscribers Face-to-face meetings as required Gomeroi Applicant Group has two representatives on Narrabri Gas Project Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Group and four representatives on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Working Group.

Local community (including clubs and community groups)

Objective:

- Consult with local community to progress the exploration and appraisal of PEL 1
- Build awareness and understanding of the Project objectives
- Inform and actively engage the community to ensure accurate, timely and relevant information is available
- Seek community input to identify and address potential impacts and communicate benefits of the Project

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and contribute to community partnerships to ensure regional communities hosting Santos activities receive direct benefits 	
Stakeholder group	Activities
Clubs and community groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Santos shopfront in Narrabri with staff and resources available for information and to answer questions Face-to-face meetings on request Santos community grant and sponsorship initiatives Monthly activity update on the Project website and emailed directly to subscribers Community site tours and participation in community activities.
General community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Santos shopfront in Narrabri with staff and resources available for information and to answer questions Monthly activity update Community information sessions which are advertised in local newspapers. Community site tours and participation in community activities
Other community organisations:	
People for the Plains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representative attended Narrabri Gas Project CCC meetings during the reporting period Respond to enquiries and correspondence when applicable Monthly activity update on the Project website and emailed directly to subscribers
Lock the Gate Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Media postings on significant announcements Respond to social media commentary when applicable
Knitting Nanas Against Gas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Media postings on significant announcements Respond to social media commentary when applicable
North West Protection Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social media postings on significant announcements Respond to enquiries and correspondence when applicable
Local business and contractors	
Objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult with local businesses and contractors to progress the exploration and appraisal of PEL 1 Build awareness and understanding of project objectives and benefits within the business community Inform and actively engage vendors and service providers to ensure accurate, timely and relevant information is available Provide procurement opportunities for local businesses and vendors Enable regional communities hosting Santos activities opportunities for direct economic benefits 	
Stakeholder group	Activities
Gunnedah Chamber of Commerce and Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Santos is a member of Gunnedah Chamber of Commerce and Industry and a representative attends meetings and events Monthly activity update on the Project website and emailed directly to subscribers
Local businesses and vendors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly activity update on the Project website, and emailed directly to subscribers Respond to enquiries and correspondence when applicable.
Media	
Objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use media channels to build awareness and understanding of project objectives and benefits within the community Inform the community to ensure accurate, timely and relevant information is available Provide technical information needed to understand the activities that we propose Enhance the level of project knowledge among community members 	
Print and television Northern Daily Leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field tours on request

Gunnedah Times The Land newspaper Sydney Daily Telegraph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Activity notifications – Interviews on key issues or activities – Advertorials and/or media releases on significant events – Monthly activity update on the Project website, and emailed directly to subscribers. – Santos Proudly Australian commercials
Social media Facebook Twitter Instagram Web	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Promotion of community activities and events – Industry news – Website updates with environmental approvals and current information – Narrabri Gas Project CCC minutes and presentations on website – Narrabri Gas Project Advisory Group/s minutes and presentation on website

3. Outcomes of consultation

There has been an extensive program of community engagement and consultation in relation to the PEL 1 tenement since July 2010. The effectiveness of this ongoing program is demonstrated by the level of awareness of the potential impacts and benefits of potential future activities. As the community consultation program has been in place for a relatively long period, activities and associated tools for consultation are well entrenched. In addition, the relationship with existing stakeholders is strong. Activities are reviewed regularly to ensure that new stakeholders and emerging issues are identified early and can be incorporated into ongoing consultation strategies.

A large component of our consultation activities during the reporting period was related to communicating plans for further exploration activities in the PEL 1 area including Bando Seismic Project, Kahlua Reactivation Project and the outcome of the Narrabri Gas Project approval by the IPC in September 2020. This has been followed by a subsequent approval by the Federal Minister for the Environment in November 2020 and the acquisition of Hunter Gas Pipeline Pty Ltd in August 2022. This information has generated a number of enquiries from the community, landholders and stakeholders in relation to the timing of activity commencement; opportunities for employment with Santos; enquiries from private landholders in relation to opportunities for land access agreements; and procurement and sales opportunities for businesses and contractors from the local and broader regional area.

In July 2021, the NSW Government released the Future of Gas Statement outlining their plans for the gas industry in NSW. This statement rules out gas production under the majority of PELs, except for those supporting the Narrabri Gas Project. As a result, the total area covered by PELs has been reduced by 77 percent, with the exception of licenses supporting the Narrabri Gas Project. Proponents, industry bodies, regional communities, and landowners gained some clarity from the Statement regarding which areas would be subject to the renewal of PELs. The NSW Government will amend the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy to reflect these changes. Santos welcomed the renewal of PEL 1 for an additional six years on 12 April 2022.

Santos implemented several initiatives including a media release, telephone calls and emails to communicate this information to stakeholders in the relevant regional communities. In addition, Santos answered further questions that arose. The PEL renewal process and subsequent renewal for PEL 1 and of licences in other tenements generated a number of enquiries from landholders and the community in relation to which areas were likely to be included in renewed PEL areas and what this meant for current and future exploration and appraisal activities in PEL 1 and other tenements.

The community has also expressed interest in the Judicial Review proceedings that were heard at the NSW Land and Environment Court from 30 August 2021 in response to an appeal filed by Mullaley Gas and Pipeline Accord, which was represented by the Environmental Defenders Office. There was an appeal by the group against the IPC's approval of the Narrabri Gas Project and its consideration of potential environmental impacts of the transmission pipeline as well as engagement with greenhouse gas emissions and their potential impact on climate change and the environment. Information relevant to their enquiries is already publicly available in the Narrabri Gas Project SSD 6456 Development Consent and Statement of Reasons for Decision, which are available on the IPC website. The NSW Land and Environment Court dismissed the Mullaley Gas and Pipeline Accord's legal challenge

to the Independent Planning Commission's (IPC's) conditional approval of the Narrabri Gas Project on 18 October 2021.

During the reporting period, on-ground project activity in PEL 1 has included routine activities associated with managing the existing PEL 1 pilot appraisal well and planning for future activities, including;

- annual ecological monitoring activities and groundwater monitoring activities for Environmental Protection Licence compliance throughout the period;
- seasonal ecological and cultural heritage surveys were undertaken to assist in planning future work activities; and
- Bando Seismic Project completion.

A variety of methods were used to communicate the timing and purpose of these activities to neighbouring landowners, the Gunnedah Shire Council and the local community, including written correspondence, emails, telephone calls, monthly activity updates, and placement of advertisements in the Gunnedah Times regarding upcoming community information sessions and PEL 1 activities.

Santos engages in ongoing consultations with landowners, local and state governments, community groups, and other stakeholders relevant to PEL 1. These include:

- Contact with landholders directly and indirectly affected by the PEL 1 exploration and appraisal activities
- Attending meetings and site inspections with state government representatives, including representatives of regulatory agencies, as well as regularly meeting with local government staff and elected representatives;
- Liaison with contractors and local businesses through participation in Gunnedah & District Chamber of Commerce and Industry meetings;
- Liaison with emergency services personnel from NSW Police, Local Land Services, State Emergency Service, Environment Protection Authority, and the Resources Regulator through face to face meetings and scheduled teleconferences;
- Working to establish a close working relationship with Red Chief Local Aboriginal Land Council
- The Gomeroi People's native title claim extends over the PEL 1 area and Santos has continued to ensure the Gomeroi native title applications (NT Applicants) are informed in relation to Santos' current and planned activities within PEL 1.

The development of the natural gas sector in PEL1 and throughout NSW continues to be a point of contention among some local residents, those groups in opposition to natural gas development have opportunities to raise concerns directly with Santos or through formal channels such as Community Consultative Committee (CCC) and community information sessions.

The following table summarizes the outcomes of the consultations conducted during the reporting period; the issues and opportunities identified during consultations with each stakeholder group; and the effectiveness of these consultations. Section 5 - Enquiries Received and Actions Taken contains a list of issues identified (by theme) and the actions taken.

Table 3: Outcomes of consultation by stakeholder group

Local, State and Federal Government departments and elected representatives		
Matters identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – PEL 1 Bando Seismic Project and Kahlua Reactivation Project – Narrabri Gas Project approval outcomes, progress and timing of project development – Groundwater modelling, monitoring and management – Produced water treatment and management strategy for by-product salts – Industry coexistence with agriculture and existing land uses – Local procurement and business opportunities – NSW Future of Gas Statement and outcomes – PEL renewal process 		
Outcomes	Activities	Effectiveness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Kept government informed of activities and provided regular briefings to appropriate staff – Ensured relevant elected representatives and ministerial staff were given access to information on Santos activities and opportunities to provide feedback and identify issues – Built awareness and understanding of the objectives and benefits among departmental staff and elected representatives – Ensured that information and engagement relating to project activities was accurate, timely and relevant – Ensured that communication was and remains two-way and that issues and concerns are identified early and addressed appropriately – Ensured that departments have the opportunity to advise Santos of concerns that are brought to their attention by the community – Provided information and access to technical experts to address issues raised – Implemented changes to activities to address issues raised where appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Regular meetings have been held with Government agencies and elected representatives – Project briefings with representatives on the progress of PEL 1 planning. – Several meetings with State agencies to inform technical components of PEL activities <p>Gunnedah Shire Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Monthly activity update emailed to subscribed Council staff and elected representatives – Specific briefings on matters of topical interest or new activities. <p>DPE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ongoing liaison in relation to PEL 1 activities – Regular officer level meetings associated with the preparation of Seismic Project and Kahlua Project Review of Environment Factors. <p>Environment Protection Authority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ongoing liaison in relation to the EPL and regulatory activities <p>Resources Regulator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ongoing liaison in relation to regulatory activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Face to face meetings and briefings are effective in relation to regulatory functions undertaken by various agencies – On-site inspections and field tours are effective for project familiarisation and site specific assessments locally – Consistent feedback from State government staff visiting operational locations is that it is invaluable to them in understanding the activities being proposed within the regional and site context – There are mature relationships and established communication networks in place with Local Government and State Government agencies with a direct interest or regulatory role in project activities

Industry groups and regional organisations

Matters identified:

- PEL 1 Bando Seismic Project and Kahlua Reactivation Project
- Narrabri Gas Project approval outcomes, progress and timing of project development
- Great Artesian Basin and protection of aquifers
- Monitoring efforts and data
- NSW Future of Gas Statement and outcomes
- PEL renewal process

Outcomes	Activities	Effectiveness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Raised awareness of PEL 1 exploration program and Narrabri Gas Project approval – Engaged with stakeholders on specific areas of interest – Responded to concerns regarding the management and mitigation of potential impacts – Provided information and access to technical experts to address issues raised – Implemented changes to activities to address issues raised where appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Information booth at AgQuip at Gunnedah – Attendance at Narrabri Show in April 2022 but attendance at other regional show was not possible due to resource constraints. – Monthly activity updates were published Narrabri Gas Project website and distributed via email to subscribers – Regular updates were provided to key stakeholders on Project approval and implementation of conditions of consent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – On-site inspections and field tours where possible have been effective for project officers understanding the regional and site context and to ask questions of technical experts – The Narrabri Gas Project CCC is an effective forum for engagement between Government, Santos and the community – Monthly activity updates distributed and read by industry group members, prompting follow up questions on occasion – Santos staff continue to be available face to face, telephone and email and participate in corporate events such as the APPEA conference

Landholders (direct, activity area, regional context and Government)

Matters identified:

- PEL 1 Bando Seismic Project and Kahlua Reactivation Project
- Narrabri Gas Project approval outcomes, progress and timing of project development
- Groundwater modelling, monitoring and management
- Produced water treatment and management strategies and opportunities to access treated produced water
- Local procurement and business opportunities
- Local employment opportunities
- Opportunities for negotiating land access agreements
- NSW Future of Gas Statement and outcomes
- PEL renewal process

Outcomes	Activities	Effectiveness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Maintained relationships with landholders with whom we have access agreements and responded promptly to any concerns raised – Built relationships with landholders in the PEL 1 area and answered questions on Santos activities – Provided technical experts to respond to issues raised by landholders – Provided updates on Santos activities to landholders within PEL area including letters to landholders in relation to Bando Seismic Project. – Fostered open and transparent dialogue between Santos and landholders in activity areas – Provided opportunities for agricultural industry representatives to ask questions and raise matters relating to CSG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Two community information sessions held in Gunnedah during the reporting period – Approximately 100 face-to-face meetings have been held with landholders – Santos Land Access staff also have individual meetings with landholders with infrastructure and maintenance activities on their property or those directly adjacent to current exploration activities. – Government landholders have received monthly updates on Santos's activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Regular telephone, text, email and face to face meetings with landholders that have agreements or a strong interest in project activities is very effective as landholders develop a personal relationship with land access staff – Face to face meetings and briefings, where possible have been undertaken to keep landholders informed in relation to specific activities being undertaken – Monthly activity updates are acknowledged as being relevant and informative
Local Aboriginal communities and Aboriginal Land Council		
Matters identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – PEL 1 Bando Seismic Project and Kahlua Reactivation Project – Narrabri Gas Project approval outcomes, progress and timing of project development – Indigenous business development and employment opportunities – The protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage – Native Title negotiations – NSW Future of Gas Statement and outcomes – Narrabri Gas Project CCC representatives 		
Outcomes	Activities	Effectiveness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provision of information relating to proposed work program in PEL 1 and negotiate a Native Title agreement where any proposed activity may impact on native title rights – Built awareness and understanding of Santos NSW activities for members of LALC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provision of information to the Gomeroi applicant in relation to proposed exploration activity in PEL 1 – The Gomeroi applicant has met with Santos during the reporting period and negotiations with the applicant were ongoing for the Narrabri Gas Project – Gomeroi Applicant Group representatives are members of the Narrabri Gas Project Aboriginal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Face to face meetings and briefings are effective and well received in relation to specific activities being undertaken – Posts to social media, particularly Facebook are effective for providing information on activities occurring in the local area

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisted the local Aboriginal community to assess the potential benefits and impacts associated with the Santos activities 	<p>Cultural Heritage Advisory Group and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Working Group for the consultation and implementation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan</p>	
Local community (including clubs and community groups)		
Matters identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEL 1 Bando Seismic Project and Kahlua Reactivation Project Narrabri Gas Project approval outcomes, progress and timing of project development Groundwater modelling, monitoring and management Produced water treatment and management strategies Local procurement and business opportunities Local employment opportunities Santos Community Program funding 		
Outcomes	Activities	Effectiveness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Built awareness and understanding of activity objectives and benefits within the community Provided accurate, timely and relevant information on activities Santos is undertaking, or proposing to undertake Provided technical information that the community requested to understand activities occurring Provided multiple opportunities for the community and Santos to proactively discuss, identify and resolve issues Positive community response to Project approval, announcement of Government commitment to future gas industry in NSW through the <i>Strategic Opportunities for Gas in Regional NSW</i> and <i>Future of Gas Statement</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community site tours undertaken on a request basis Statements and news stories published in local media and posted to social media about various aspects of our work provide information on current activities, community events and project milestones Santos exhibited at AgQuip, a major event in the rural calendar for many businesses and individuals operating in the pastoral and agricultural sector of New South Wales Monthly activity updates emailed to approximately 430 individuals and groups each month across the Santos NSW PEL areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The shopfront in Narrabri is available to members of the public seeking information on project activities Feedback on community site tours when these can be hosted is positive Santos' contribution as a sponsor and supporter of community initiatives helps to promote and maintain a knowledge of Santos' activities and reinforces that we are an active community participant including assisting in times of need Monthly activity updates are seen to be informative and satisfactory for those that have an indirect interest in project activities
Local business and contractors		
Matters identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEL 1 Bando Seismic Project and Kahlua Reactivation Project Narrabri Gas Project approval outcomes, progress and timing of project development Training and skills development opportunities Local procurement and business opportunities Local employment opportunities 		

Outcomes	Activities	Effectiveness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Positive response to commitment to give preference to procurement outcomes that support local business and employment – Introduced contractor procurement representatives to local business representatives – Outlined requirements, processes and procedures required to potentially supply goods and services to Santos. – Positive response to Project approval, announcement of Government commitment to future gas industry in NSW through the <i>Strategic Opportunities for Gas in Regional NSW and Future of Gas Statement</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Progressed relationships and arrangements in line with Santos' Local Industry and Indigenous Participation policy – Santos representatives have attended Gunnedah Chamber of Commerce and Industry meetings – Monthly activity updates emailed to local contractors and vendors supplying to Santos or have registered to receive the update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Santos attendance at the Chamber of Commerce meetings are useful to provide suppliers and vendors with general information updates on the project and opportunity to seek more information on Santos' activities – Santos provided access to management and technical experts for local business and contractors requiring further information
Media		
Matters identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – PEL 1 Bando Seismic Project and Kahlua Reactivation Project – Narrabri Gas Project approval outcomes, progress and timing of project development – NSW gas industry and market predictions – Land use conflict and industry co-existence with agriculture – PEL renewal process and timing with NSW Government 		
Outcomes	Activities	Effectiveness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provided journalists and other media representatives with technically accurate information on activities being undertaken to assist with accurate reporting – Responded to queries or issues raised about activities in the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Statements and information have been routinely and regularly supplied to print media – Updates given to the local papers in relation to all important milestones for community information – Regular social media posts in relation to activities and community events and initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Face to face meetings and briefings are effective to familiarise media representatives with the natural gas industry in NSW and Santos' activities in PEL 1 and the Narrabri Gas Project – On-site inspections and field tours are effective for journalists' understanding of the regional and site context and to ask questions of technical experts

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Promoted the approval of the Project – Provided information and responses to enquiries in relation to topical matters including PEL renewal process, <i>Future of Gas Statement</i> and the Narrabri Special Activation Precinct 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Information updates, meeting minutes, presentations and community activities updated on Narrabri Gas Project website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Santos providing access to management and technical experts has resulted in more balanced reporting
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4. Proposed future consultation

The Community Consultation Plan will continue to guide the effective and timely implementation of consultation activities within PEL 1, in accordance with its objectives. The activities undertaken will be reviewed and adjusted regularly over the course of the project in order to reflect emerging stakeholders, issues, impacts, and benefits. In addition, they will be adjusted to reflect the additional knowledge derived from consultation activities.

Our ongoing consultations with key stakeholders and the community will ensure that we continue to build on the extensive work already accomplished to ensure the community and key stakeholders are fully informed about current and proposed future activities and continue to be able to provide timely feedback regarding our planned activities. As part of the consultation strategy, the following objectives are to be achieved:

- Developed and enhanced relationships with stakeholders, decision-makers, supporters, and opponents.
- Manage and minimise conflict risk, and resolve issues identified by new stakeholder groups and emerging community issues.
- Obtain and understand valuable local knowledge from stakeholders and the community.
- Engage stakeholders and the broader community with timely, accurate and credible information and opportunities for interaction and feedback.
- Facilitate positive outcomes for Aboriginal cultural heritage management by consulting with relevant parties and involving them in decision-making.

As a result, communication channels have been established that have proven highly effective during the reporting period for consultation.

Table 4: Proposed future consultation activities

Consultation activity	Frequency
Face to face meetings	Regular face to face meetings will be held with key stakeholders relevant to their level of interest in activities.
Community site tours	Site tours will be provided upon request from interested community groups and other stakeholders.
Community information sessions	Santos will continue to hold community information sessions specific to proposed activities.
Landholder engagement	Santos will continue to engage with landholders specific to proposed activities including notifications on timing and the provision of factsheets
Website	The website will be maintained and updated with current information.
Brochures and fact sheets	Brochures and fact sheets will be reviewed and updated. New publications will be produced as required.
Monthly activity updates	Monthly activity updates will be prepared and emailed to key stakeholders and subscribers, including NGP CCC members to disseminate to members of their respective organisations. Updates will be available on the website.
Media and social media updates	Advertisements and media releases on key announcements will continue. Santos' Facebook and Twitter pages will provide information through social media channels.
Santos shopfront	The Narrabri Shopfront will have staff available to answer questions and printed information and displays.
Attendance at community events and agricultural shows	Santos will attend local agricultural shows, AgQuip, and other relevant community events.
Community participation	Santos will continue to participate in relevant local groups and committees.

5. Complaints and enquiries

5.1 Enquiries received and complaints

Santos has implemented extensive consultation and engagement processes for its activities within PEL 1 and as a result, we receive a large number of enquiries regarding our activities and the natural gas industry as a whole.

All enquiries are answered promptly, and questions relating to a new topic are recorded in Consultation Manager for future reference. For common questions, a technical comprehensive response will be prepared so that future inquiries can be answered via Q&A, Fact Sheets or other information on our website and shopfront displays. Whenever appropriate, significant matters and recurrent questions will be introduced as agenda items at the Narrabri Gas Project CCC.

A summary of the number of consultation events recorded during the reporting period is provided in Table 5, while Table 6 provides details of the type of inquiries received and the actions taken by theme and stakeholder.

Table 5: Consultation events recorded for reporting period

Consultation Type	Number of Events	Approx. Number of participants
Shopfront visitors	Approx. 90	Approximately 150 visitors (majority being local landholders, shareholders and business representatives)
Website (page views)	26,386	
Generic Email		
General enquiries	5	
Employment enquiries	4	
Contract/supply enquiries	3	
Site tour enquiries	1	
Land access enquiries	Approx 20	
Activity updates sent directly to stakeholders	12	Avg monthly direct distribution 400
Consultation database/s (number of entries)	Approx. 350	
Advertisements, Santos generated media articles, interviews, LTEs and published activity updates	9	
Field visits and site tours	2	10

Contractor and Vendor Forums	0	
Community events with staffed Santos display	3	350
Meetings with Federal, State and Local Government representatives	>20	
Community Investment Program requests/enquiries (e.g., sponsorships, volunteer activities, loan of equipment)	2	>2,000 participants

Table 6: Enquiries received and action taken

Theme	Topic	Summary	Stakeholder				Action taken/response
			Community	Government	Industry	Landholders	
Business and employment opportunities	Supporting local business	<p>What things are in place to support buying locally?</p> <p>Will Santos help business to be able to meet procurement requirements?</p>	■		■		<p>Santos has and continues to support the local community.</p> <p>Santos has a Local Industry and Indigenous Participation policy and became a signatory to the Business Council of Australia's Australian Supplier Payment Code for small businesses and gives preference to tenderers that maximise local content in both labour and materials.</p> <p>Monthly activity update distributed to inform the local community and business of current and future opportunities.</p>
Social Responsibility	Sponsorship	Will Santos support local clubs and groups?	■			■	<p>Santos will continue to work in partnership with the local community through sponsoring, supporting and participating in community events and activities where possible.</p>

Theme	Topic	Summary	Stakeholder				Action taken/response
			Community	Government	Industry	Landholders	
Project timing	Bando Seismic Project	<p>What is the purpose of the seismic activity?</p> <p>When will Bando Seismic Project commence?</p> <p>Will Seismic activity affect the local aquifers?</p>	■	■	■	■	<p>Referred to information contained in the Review of Environment Factors and the relevant NSW Resources Regulator Codes of Practice.</p> <p>Approvals and fact sheets publicly available on website.</p> <p>Bando Seismic Project information published in local newspaper to inform the local community of activities being undertaken.</p> <p>Community information sessions held in Gunnedah for interested community members.</p>

5.2 Complaints received and action taken

Santos takes complaints received from members of the community very seriously and has a complaints procedure for reporting, managing, and resolving complaints. In this procedure, internal guidelines are outlined for the reporting and resolution of complaints. If appropriate, the case manager will refer the complaint to the appropriate regulatory authority and will work with the complainant in a timely manner to resolve the matter. During the reporting period, two complaints were received by the NSW Resources Regulator.

EPA is the lead regulator responsible for compliance and enforcement of all conditions of approval for onshore gas activities in NSW, excluding work health and safety issues. EPA is required by law to maintain several public registers that provide information about environmental protection measures and regulatory actions. The registers are available on the EPA website and there are no recorded actions relating to Santos during the reporting period.

Event Type	Complaint
Received by	Referred to Santos by NSW Resources Regulator, Department of Regional NSW
Received	23 January 2023 and 7 February 2023
Location	Petroleum Exploration Licence 1 Bando Seismic Program
Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 15 December 2022 the Department was notified of an alleged breach of section 72(7) of the Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991 (the Act) by failing to notify an affected landowner within at least 21 days of carrying out a seismic survey on a road. The Department referred the allegation to Santos on 23 January 2023. The vibrios trucks commenced seismic survey activities for the Bando Seismic Program on 23 January 2023.
Action Taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The complaint was made to the Department 39 days prior to the seismic activity commencing in PEL 1, pre-empting the date for which Santos was required to provide notification to affected landowners by eighteen days. The affected landowner was not a landowner within the specified distance under section 72(7) of a road on which the seismic program was undertaken. However, as part of our commitment to inform the community of our planned activities, as a landowner within one kilometre of the proposed program, the complainant had been mailed three separate letters (October 2022, November 2022 and December 2022) jointly addressed to the complainant and his wife) providing notification of the proposed activity for the property for which the complainant is jointly registered as an owner on the property title. In addition, the complainant's wife had been mailed three separate letters (October 2022, November 2022 and December 2022) as the sole landowner of another property within one kilometre proximity of a road on which the survey was proposed to be undertaken. Information was provided to the Department of other activities undertaken to inform landowners and the community of planned activities in PEL 1 including a letterbox drop for properties on public roads adjacent to the proposed seismic activity in November 2022; and two community information sessions that were advertised in the local newspaper and held in Gunnedah in June 2022 and November 2022. Santos provided a response to the Resources Regulator with this information.

Event Type	Complaint
Received by	Referred to Santos by NSW Resources Regulator, Department of Regional NSW
Received	7 February 2023
Location	Petroleum Exploration Licence 1 Bando Seismic Program
Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 7 February 2023, the Department notified Santos of an alleged breach of section 72(7) of the Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991 in relation to the requirement to notify occupiers of a dwelling-house within at least 21 days of carrying out a seismic survey on a road.
Action Taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The occupants of the dwelling houses on the property referred to by the complainant were not occupying a dwelling within the specified distance under section 72(7) of a road on which the seismic program was undertaken. Three letters were mailed to the landowner in October 2022, November 2022 and December 2022 advising of the proposed seismic survey activity. Santos provided a response to the Resources Regulator with this information.