



# **ANNUAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT PETROLEUM EXPLORATION LICENCE NO.12**



## **For reporting period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023**

Original Grant Date: 27 September 1995  
Licence Expiry Date: 12 April 2028  
Licence Holders: Santos QNT Pty. Ltd. and Australian Coalbed Methane Pty. Limited  
Project Name and Location: Petroleum Exploration Licence No.12  
Report date: 27 October 2023  
Author: [REDACTED]

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## Executive summary

Australian Coalbed Methane Pty Ltd and Santos QNT Pty Ltd have appointed Santos as the operator for Petroleum Exploration Licence (PEL) No. 12. This report has been prepared by Santos to meet Condition 2 of the Petroleum Exploration Licence which states that the licence holder must carry out community consultation in relation to the planning and conduct of activities under this licence in accordance with the *Exploration code of practice: Community consultation*, Department of Regional NSW.

During the reporting period, the work program for PEL 12 has focussed on tenure management, progressing scouting activities to support future work program commitments and consulting with the community more broadly about Santos' activities in NSW.

Desktop studies and reviews have been conducted to meet the current work program commitments for PEL 12 in accordance with the instrument of renewal. Community consultation has been undertaken to support this work program. Santos' ongoing community consultation and engagement program continues to:

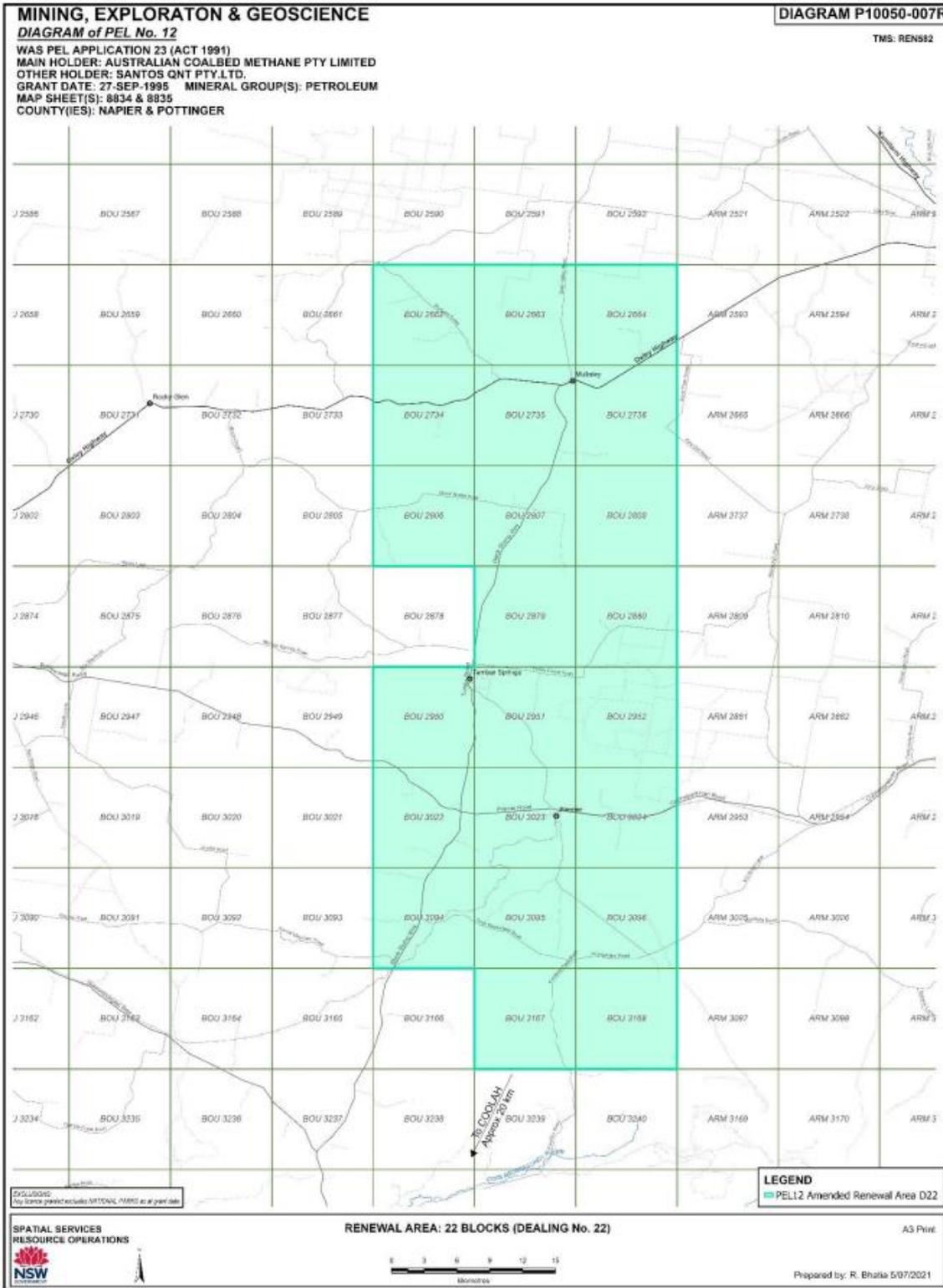
- Provide opportunities and information to stakeholders and the broader community about how to engage and provide feedback.
- Implement the consultation framework with regards to the exploration program, size and scale of the project and access to associated information and resources.
- Maintain relationships with Aboriginal community members through consultation with relevant parties and increase knowledge of the gas industry, specifically Santos' work program in NSW.
- Implement strategies to mitigate, manage and minimise the risk of conflict.
- Resolve issues as they arise.

Santos maintains a community shopfront in Narrabri with staff available to provide information, answer questions or address concerns that stakeholders may raise. A Monthly Activity Update is emailed to subscribers and published in the Narrabri Courier, Gunnedah Times, and Wee Waa News. Updates are also provided to the broader community regarding key activities and milestones through Santos' website, social media channels and media releases.

The key areas of interest for stakeholders and the community during the reporting period included proposed exploration and appraisal activities in the licence area and Santos' broader activities in New South Wales, groundwater management in relation to the Great Artesian Basin, drilling and well integrity, and potential impacts to existing land uses through coal seam gas (CSG) development.

There have been no complaints recorded for activities within PEL 12 during the reporting period.

Figure 1 – PEL 12 Map



## Annual work program

Petroleum Exploration Licence (PEL) 12 was granted on 27 September 1995 and was renewed 12 April 2022 for a further period of six years. Santos Limited, through its subsidiary entities, is the CSG operator for the wider contiguous exploration project currently consisting of PEL 1, PEL 12, PEL 238 and PEL 427.

The work program for PEL 12 which covers this reporting period has included desktop activities, environmental assessments, geological studies, community engagement (including resources and information provided at the Narrabri shopfront and Narrabri Gas Project and Santos websites), tenure management and reporting to keep the tenure in good standing.

## Regional context

PEL 12 is located in the southeast part of the Gunnedah Basin in New South Wales and consists of 22 graticular blocks. Major centres in close proximity (but outside of the PEL) include Coonabarabran (approx. 45km west) and Gunnedah (approx. 30km northeast).

PEL 12 is within the Federal Government electoral boundaries of Parkes, the State Government electoral boundaries of Barwon and Tamworth, and the Local Government Areas of Warrumbungle Shire, Gunnedah Shire, and Liverpool Plains Shire. The Gomeri People's Native Title claim extends over the PEL 12 tenure area.

## Consultation summary

At this stage of the exploration and appraisal program, the annual work program is focused on desktop activities, environmental and geological studies to support tenure commitments. Additionally, there is ongoing communication with the Longlea 1 landholder concerning biosecurity management and monitoring activities.

Throughout the reporting period, participation in community events and the opportunity to offer community site tours has continued. Santos has attended a number of events including AgQuip, Gunnedah Show, Gunnedah Rugby Union Grand Final and the Gunnedah Youth Week Expo. Santos maintains a community shopfront in Narrabri with staff available to provide information, answer questions or address concerns that stakeholders may raise. A Monthly Activity Update is emailed to subscribers and published in the Narrabri Courier, Gunnedah Times, and Wee Waa News. Updates are also provided to the broader community regarding key activities and milestones through Santos' website, social media channels and media releases.

Significant work has been done to offer insights into the wider NSW gas industry and to address any inaccurate or misleading information. Santos has systems and processes in place to ensure that communities and stakeholder groups are provided with accurate information to understand the nature of the project and the likely impacts and benefits that may be derived from the project operations well before any on-ground activities are undertaken.

Santos utilises various engagement methods to recognise and address community concerns, ensure that identified community stakeholders are informed of the proposed schedule for implementing the approved work program, ensure stakeholders are notified prior to the commencement of relevant activities and that community consultation feedback is monitored and responded to.

## Stakeholder identification and consultation undertaken

Identification of key stakeholders for PEL 12 has been undertaken with stakeholders grouped according to their level of interest in the work program and the potential level of impact that exploration and appraisal activities may have and the expected level of participation.

Stakeholder groups include:

- 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 business and contractors
- Media

## Summary of consultation

During the reporting period, activities have been undertaken in accordance with the *Exploration code of practice: Community consultation*, Department of Regional NSW. Desktop studies and reviews have been conducted throughout the period to meet tenure commitments. Consequently, due to the nature of these activities, the potential impact to the community and stakeholders within PEL 12 is very low.

All feedback collected during consultation is recorded in Stakeholder Relationship Manager (SRM). The data collected is then used to inform business decisions and develop future consultation strategies.

**Table 1 – Summary of activities**

Community consultation method	Actions and comments
<i>Respond to correspondence/submissions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respond to all correspondence in a timely manner with factual information.</li> </ul>
<i>Publish notice in community/council newsletter advising of the undertaking of the activity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A monthly activity update is emailed to subscribers, and published in the Narrabri Courier, Gunnedah Times and Wee Waa News.</li> </ul>
<i>Relevant local community and environment groups</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Santos participates in relevant local groups and committees (e.g. Chamber of Commerce) in areas where we have on-ground activity to ensure that current information is provided regarding Santos' activities and potential issues and opportunities are identified and resolved where necessary.</li> </ul>
<i>Publish notice in local newspaper advising of the undertaking of the activity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Santos provides information through print media including advertisements, advertorials, and media releases on key announcements and monthly activity updates are printed in the Gunnedah Times newspaper.</li> </ul>
<i>Distribution of relevant information including advising of the undertaking of the activity (e.g. pamphlets, email, letter box drop)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A series of fact sheets are available on matters of topical interest to the community in relation to the CSG industry. These are available on the Narrabri Gas Project website and at the Santos community shopfront in Narrabri.</li> </ul>
<i>Information provided on website/page</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Santos corporate website and Santos Narrabri Gas Project website is regularly updated with current</li> </ul>

	<p>information and forthcoming activities including approved work programs in our NSW tenures.</p>
<i>Dedicated project email address/phone number</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An email address <a href="mailto:energy.nsw@santos.com">mailto:energy.nsw@santos.com</a> and contact telephone number is included on all printed material for community to seek information and provide feedback.</li> </ul>
<i>Displays i.e. in local library, shopfronts</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Santos maintains a community shopfront in Narrabri with staff available to provide information and answer questions.</li> </ul>
<i>Public exhibition of information associated with the activity and timing of works</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within the reporting period, the Santos team attended a number of community events such as AgQuip, Gunnedah Show, Gunnedah Rugby Union and Gunnedah Youth Week Expo.</li> </ul>
<i>Social media</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Santos maintains several social media channels. They are used to educate and inform interested stakeholders about Santos' activities, community partnerships and initiatives as appropriate.</li> </ul>
<b>Community stakeholder meetings</b>	
<i>Hold meetings/Interview with key individuals or group representatives</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liaison with landholder for regular well inspections at Longlea 1, which is the only site with surface infrastructure in PEL 12. The site has also been inspected by the Resources Regulator and the Environment Protection Authority, who undertook leak detection with their infra-red camera. No leaks were identified.</li> <li>Community site tours to visit operational sites within PEL 238 have been an on-request basis for interested community members and groups during the reporting period.</li> <li>Community information sessions have been held in Gunnedah (September and November 2022 and May 2023) and Quirindi (September and November 2022) to provide information on Santos NSW projects including the Narrabri Gas Project, Hunter Gas Pipeline, Narrabri Lateral Pipeline and Exploration and Appraisal activity proposed in PELs 1 and 12 including the PEL 1 Seismic program and Kahlua Pilot activity.</li> </ul>
<i>Hold meeting with local committees/organisations and local government representatives</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project presentation delivered to the Gunnedah Chamber of Commerce in April 2023.</li> <li>Project presentation delivered to Gunnedah Council February 2022.</li> </ul>
<i>Hold open community forum/public meeting</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direct community consultation conducted in Gunnedah with an open community information session held September and November 2022 and May 2023.</li> <li>Direct community consultation conducted via open community information session relating to Santos proposed work programs in our NSW tenures and other activities were held in Gunnedah (September and November 2022 and May 2023) and Quirindi (September and November 2022) Locations for these events typically include Gunnedah and Quirindi and were advertised in local newspapers including Narrabri Courier, Gunnedah Times and Quirindi Advocate.</li> </ul>

Santos' engagement with the Gomeroi people during the reporting period has been primarily related to progressing Native Title negotiations for the Narrabri Gas Project, Hunter Gas Pipeline and Narrabri Lateral Pipeline projects, engagement through the Narrabri Gas Project Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Group and

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Working Group (cultural heritage scouting activity) and providing updates on proposed exploration and appraisal activities.

As the work program for PEL 12 has focussed on tenure management, the level of engagement specifically related to PEL 12 has been low, though Santos will continue to engage with the Gomeroi people as future work programs are proposed.

## Analysis of issues raised

With no on-ground works conducted within the licence area of PEL 12 during the reporting period, the majority of enquiries received have been general in nature, relating to the Narrabri Gas Project or activities being undertaken in PEL 1, the Hunter Gas and Narrabri Lateral Pipelines, the natural gas industry more broadly or requests for sponsorship contributions by local community groups. When questions on a particular topic are common, a technically comprehensive response is prepared so that information can be provided for future enquiries through fact sheets or other information shared via the website and shopfront displays.

**Table 2 – Responses to comments and issues**

Theme	Topic	Summary	Stakeholder				Action taken/response
			Community	Government	Industry association	Landholders	
Business and employment opportunities	Supporting local business		■		■	■	Santos continues to support the local community by contributing to initiatives that attract new investment and encourage employment creation within the areas in which we operate. With no new on-ground works conducted within the licence area of PEL 12 during the reporting period, opportunities for local contractors have been limited.
Community benefits	Sponsorship	Will Santos support local sporting clubs and groups?	■				The Santos website provides information regarding the community sponsorships, grants and donation framework and how community groups and organisations can apply for support.
Activity timing	PEL 12 exploration and appraisal	When activities will occur; what activities are proposed?	■	■		■	Information is provided via direct mail, engagement and briefing sessions, monthly activity updates, local newspapers, fact sheets and on the website in relation to the Narrabri Gas Project, Santos' operations in NSW and desktop activities being undertaken within PEL 12.

Santos activities in other areas in NSW	PEL 1 Seismic Program	What activities are proposed? Timing and potential impacts/opportunities	■	■	■	Community information sessions have been held within the reporting period including at Narrabri, Gunnedah, Quirindi, Boggabri and Baan Baa
	Kahlua pilot activity	What activities are proposed? Timing and potential impacts/opportunities	■	■	■	Fact sheets Website Monthly activity updates Narrabri community shopfront Direct mail Direct meetings and briefings
	Hunter Gas Pipeline	When activities will occur; what activities are proposed?	■	■	■	Media releases Advertising Social media channels
	Narrabri Lateral Pipeline	When activities will occur; what activities are proposed?	■	■	■	
	Narrabri Gas Project	Has the Narrabri Gas Project received approval and what is the timing for the project?	■	■	■	■

## Outcomes of consultation

**Table 3 – Outcomes of consultation**

Outcomes	Effectiveness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raised awareness that Santos is the tenure holder of PEL 12 and as Operator is currently undertaking desktop activities to progress the exploration and appraisal program in this area.</li> <li>• Advised key stakeholders of the NSW Government Future of Gas Statement and the associated PEL 12 renewal process.</li> <li>• Raised awareness of the assessment approval of the Narrabri Gas Project, Hunter Gas Pipeline, Narrabri Lateral Pipeline, PEL1 seismic and Kahlua pilot activities.</li> <li>• Engaged with stakeholders on specific areas of interest.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Face to face meetings and briefings where possible are effective in relation to familiarisation of the natural gas industry in NSW and Santos' activities in PEL 12.</li> <li>• On-site inspections and field tours to operational sites in PEL 238 are effective at raising awareness and understanding of the operational aspects of an exploration and appraisal program.</li> <li>• Regular correspondence and meetings with directly impacted landholders or those with strong interest in the project is essential.</li> <li>• The Santos website and media articles on significant activities are effective at providing</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthened relationships with key stakeholders within the licence area.</li> <li>Provided information to stakeholders and the broader community.</li> <li>Provided opportunities for community interaction and feedback.</li> </ul>	<p>information on the natural gas industry and Santos' activities in NSW to the broader community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional shows including hosting an information stand at AgQuip is an effective way to provide community members with access to information on natural gas and Santos' exploration program in NSW.</li> </ul>
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## Proposed future consultation

The Community Consultation Plan will continue to guide the effective and timely delivery of consultation activities within PEL 12.

**Table 4 - Proposed community consultation during the next reporting period**

Consultation activity	Description
Community site tours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site tours will continue to be provided upon request from interested community groups and other stakeholders</li> </ul>
Narrabri community shopfront	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Narrabri community shopfront will continue to provide printed information and displays</li> <li>Santos will continue to have team members available to speak directly with landholders and community members</li> </ul>
Community information and drop-in sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Santos will host community information and drop in sessions at various locations near PEL 12</li> </ul>
Attendance at community events and agricultural shows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Santos will attend events that provide opportunities to engage with stakeholders within PEL 12 at community events including AgQuip in August, Gunnedah Show, Gunnedah Rugby Union Grand Final, Gunnedah Youth Week Expo and Gunnedah Chamber of Commerce meetings</li> </ul>
Face to face meetings and written correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direct engagement with landholders and broader stakeholder groups that may be affected by or have an interest in future potential work programs</li> </ul>
Communication tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The generic email and a contact telephone number will be referenced on Santos website and external printed documentation</li> </ul>
Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Website will be maintained and regularly updated with current information</li> </ul>
Brochures and fact sheets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brochures and fact sheets will be regularly reviewed and updated.</li> <li>New publications will be produced as required</li> </ul>
Media updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advertisements and media releases on key announcements will continue</li> </ul>
Social media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information will continue to be provided through social media channels</li> </ul>

## Complaints received and action taken

Santos did not receive any reportable complaints either directly, or referred, in relation to activities within PEL 12 during the reporting period. As part of our operations, complaints received (or referred) from individual members of the community or a representative body are entered to a database and the response provided or action taken is recorded.