

# MEETING MINUTES

## Narrabri Gas Project (NGP)

## Biodiversity Advisory Group (BAG)

## Meeting # 7

### DATE / TIME

15 November 2023  
10:00am

### LOCATION

Narrabri Shopfront Conference Room  
125 Maitland Street, Narrabri  
(+ Videoconference)

### FACILITATOR

Garry West

### MINUTE TAKER

Lyn Firth

### ATTENDEES

- ♦ Adam Butcher (Santos)
- ♦ Christopher Eastaugh (NSW Forestry)
- ♦ Calvin Houlison (BCD) (Online)
- ♦ Todd Dunn (Santos)

- ♦ Ken Flower (Community Member)
- ♦ Janelle Twyman (Santos)
- ♦ Isaac Mamott (Independent Expert) (Online)
- ♦ Kathryn Hamilton (Community Member)

### APOLOGIES

- ♦ Steve Philips (Independent Expert)

## Discussions

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
1. Welcome	The Chair welcomed the Advisory group and acknowledged Gomeroi country on which the meeting was held as well as Elders past, present and future and all Aboriginal person present.
Declaration of interest	The Chair asked if there were any new declarations of interest. Nil.
Recording of minutes	The Chair asked members if there was any objection to the recording of the minutes for secretariat purposes with the audio being deleted once the minutes were finalised and approved. There was no objection.
Minutes of previous minutes	Minutes from the previous meeting (February 2023) were accepted with no changes. They have been uploaded to the website.
Actions outstanding	Future hydrogen projects circulated.
Correspondence	Nil
2. Presentation Todd Dunn	<p>Presentation (as attached).</p> <p><b>Santos Corporate Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q3 report released with robust revenue, production, and free cash flow in line with expectations.</li> <li>• Pikka Project (significant oil project in Alaska) progressing well – rig operations completed on first three wells and fourth well in progress.</li> <li>• Barossa project now 68% complete (excluding the Darwin Pipeline Duplication project) but drilling operations remain suspended pending assessment and</li> </ul>

acceptance of the associated environmental plan by the regulator.

- Moomba CCS is 75% complete with first injections on track for mid-2024.
- Direct Air Capture (DAC) unit arrived at Moomba during Q1 with pre-field commissioning successfully completed.

Q. (Ken) What about the costs of direct air capture – is this on top of the \$24?

A (Todd) Not sure of the economics for the direct air capture technology as it is currently only a field trial but I would expect the price to reduce quickly as this technology is scaled up.

#### **Narrabri Gas Project Update – Janelle Twyman (Santos)**

- Phase 1 activity continues to progress.
- Shallow water bore program completed Feb-Nov 2023 and deep aquifer monitoring bore completion works undertaken – both of which will inform the water modelling update.
- Further works including deep aquifer monitoring bores, coreholes & pilot wells to be completed throughout 2024.
- Minor updates required to several management plans including minor change to corehole location (Dewhurst)
- Ecological scouting for NGP Phase 2, Hunter Gas Pipeline (HGP) and Narrabri Lateral Pipeline (NLP) continues through 2023.
- National Native Title Tribunal determination of December 2022 appeal was heard in August 2023 and a decision is anticipated by early 2024.
- Final investment decision dependent on receiving all required approvals.

Q. (Ken) Do you have dual pads?

A. Todd: Yes we locate two wells per pad. This reduces our environmental impact. We also have our laterals lengths targeting 2.5 km. The EIS was approved with a minimum of 1000m separation, so this reduces our disturbance impact and reduces the number of wells. In Queensland, we are currently drilling up to 4km laterals. We are trying to minimise the environmental impact and maximising the technology available to extend the laterals.

#### **NGP BAG Update (presented by Janelle Twyman)**

- Some new disturbance required to do the work with the shallow bores. This was around Dewhurst 35 which was on private property on land which had already been cleared.
- There was also new access track and widening of existing access track from Dewhurst 29 along Whirlybrook trail and Kurrajohn trail to Dewhurst 43 well pad and a new access track to Dewhurst 35.
- Offset property – all biodiversity offset credits identified for Phase 1 in the Biodiversity Offset Strategy were retired prior to the commencement of Phase 1.
- Biodiversity offset credits were obtained via:
  - 1) payment into Biodiversity Conservation Fund
  - 2) purchase of credits through Biobanking
  - 3) purchase of credits through a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement

#### **Establishing offsets for Phase 2 (presented by Adam Butcher)**

- Discussion regarding the process of Biobanking which involves creating ecosystem credits and species credits and Santos' proposed approach to retire credits prior to the commencement of Phase 2.
- Phase 1 of the Koala Research program has been presented to Santos, and it is desktop assessment to determine a Pilgla wide understanding of the location and size of koala populations.

Q. Kath: With the koala survey that you are doing, do you report the findings to any other agency? I am thinking specifically of WIRES who at the moment are trying to put structures in place where there is fire risk and where there are koala populations. WIRES would like to have a triage ambulance in place.

A. Todd: All the findings will be publicly available and will come back through this Biodiversity Advisory Group. There has been extensive Koala studies already completed in this region with involvement from National Parks and Forestry.

- Santos are in the first phase of the Management Proposal, Seed Propagation program. It involves surveys and seed collection – 10 collection events over a 12-month period.
- Santos are working through the application process for a Biodiversity and conservation license for seed collection of threatened flora in the Pillia for conservation and seed research.
- Annual reporting – under the conditions of the consent, Santos are required to conduct an annual review which will be submitted to DPE at the end of March. This will be available on the website.
- Independent Environment Audit – this was required under consent. This has been completed and lodged. This will be available on the website.

#### **Hunter Gas Pipeline Update**

- Extensive stakeholder engagement including over 5400 landholder engagements, over 30 engagements with Aboriginal stakeholder groups and 30 community information sessions.
- Surveys well progressed within the approved corridor and work to progress surveys to support the finalisation of the alignment continues.
- Deed of Easement process is underway with landholders where the alignment is firm.
- Authority to Survey (ATS) was approved by NSW Government however Santos views this as a last resort when all reasonable attempts to negotiate access has failed.
- Staging approach was approved by DPE – construction of preliminary works sites (laydown yards) are subject to the approval of management plans.

Q. Isaac – Is there much scope to align the pipeline along existing roads and rail corridors?

A. Todd – This project is already approved and received State consent based on a alignment within a 200m corridor. The idea is to navigate through the corridor to avoid impacts on the landowners, the ecology, and cultural heritage, amongst other things.

#### **Narrabri Lateral Pipeline (NLP)**

- NLP will connect the NGP to the HGP, ~ 55km and designed per AS2885.
- Sizing – nominally 20" or ~508mm diameter consistent with HGP
- The pipeline will be primarily located underground, with associated aboveground infrastructure. As this is a relatively short pipeline infrastructure will be largely at the start/finish of the pipeline.
- Santos is committed to minimising the impact on stakeholders and the environment.
- The CH survey is planned over a 100m corridor in preparation for finalising the alignment.
- NLP declared Critical State Significant Infrastructure by NSW Government
- Moving forward Santos will:
  - Continue to engage with directly affected landholders/other stakeholders
  - Progress Deed of Easement Agreements where the alignment is firm
  - Prepare NLP EIS based on SEARs for submission to NSW DPE
  - Prepare EPBC referral to Commonwealth Government targeting submission for Q4 2023

Discussion followed about the role of EIS and the responsibility of providing information that is informative to the public.

#### **Exploration program and other updates**

PEL 1 - Kahlua area activities

- Review of Environmental Factors approved
- Works currently being undertaken
- Ongoing engagement with landholders including water bore sampling

PEL 1 and 12 – Scouting to satisfy future minimum tenure commitments.

	<p>Brawboy2 (PEL456) – Decommissioning works complete with rehabilitation to be progressed through 2024.</p> <p>Q. Kath – Did the community object to the well? Why did you close it?  A Todd – While the rig was on site there was no negative sentiment during the operation. The Scone community welcomed the economic benefits of the Santos work team being in town.  The non-renewal was part of the NSW government <i>Future of Gas Statement</i> released in November 2020. The government stated that gas had a place as part of the energy transition and identified the areas that they considered suitable for gas exploration in NSW including the Narrabri Gas Project. The tenure near Scone was not renewed.</p> <p>Q Kath - So how will that closure affect the Hunter Gas Pipeline?  A Todd – Not at all. Stage 2 of the Hunter Gas Pipeline is from Narrabri to Newcastle supplying gas to the east coast domestic market. Stage 3 is the northern section, bringing gas through from Queensland to Narrabri and then the NSW domestic market. The consent includes a condition to provide offtake points along the alignment, so Santos are engaging with councils and asking them to nominate proposed offtake points to support future growth in the region.</p> <p>.</p>
3. Member Updates	<p>Other advisory groups are meeting today and tomorrow.</p> <p>Chris Eastaugh – Cameras and sound meters are up throughout the forest for the Pilliga Biodiversity program. COVID and bad weather have made for a couple of challenging years.</p>
4. General Business	<p>Q. Isaac: Would it be possible to have another tour next year, particularly if there are pilot wells operational?  A. Todd: Yes, Santos is happy to facilitate site tours at any time and will look to arrange a suitable time through the Chair.</p>

## Actions

NO.	ACTIONS	ACTION BY	DUE DATE
1	The Independent Audit report to be circulated	Garry West	When available

**Next Meeting** – to be confirmed – possibly toward end of March 2024.

Meeting closed 11.40am