

Meeting Minutes Narrabri Gas Project (NGP) Community Consultative Committee (CCC)

DATE / TIME

Tuesday 18 March 2025
9:30am

LOCATION

Narrabri Shopfront Conference Room
125 Maitland Street, Narrabri

FACILITATOR/CHAIR

Garry West

MINUTE TAKER

Garry West

ATTENDEES

- Stuart Murray (People for the Plains) (P4P)
- Ken Flower (Community representative)
- Jocelyn Cameron (Community representative)
- Cr Amanda Brown (Narrabri Shire Council)
- Lynn Trindall (Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC))
- David Scilley (NSW Farmers)
- Andrew Snars (Santos)
- Abby McClure (Santos)
- Janelle Twyman (Santos) (MS Teams)
- Carlee Miller (Santos) (MS Teams)
- Sonya Pascoe (Onward Consulting) (MS Teams)

APOLOGIES

- Cr Brett Nolan (Narrabri Shire Council)
- Russell Stewart (Chamber of Commerce)

Discussions

2. Declaration of interest	The Chair asked if there were any new declarations of conflict of interest. None declared.
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NO.	DISCUSSIONS
1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies	The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and acknowledged Gomeroi country on which the meeting was held as well as Elders past, present and future.

3. Minutes of previous meeting	The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to attendees. Stuart Murray requested changes, and the minutes were finalised with minimal amendment and uploaded to the project website. Stuart Murray opposed their adoption as he believed they glossed over issues he read to the meeting.
4. Action from previous meeting	Questions and answers as submitted by Stuart Murray and Santos responses were included in the presentation attached to these minutes.
5. Correspondence	NIL
6. Santos update	<p>Santos Corporate Update (Andrew Snars) See presentation slides for details.</p> <p>Narrabri Gas Project (Janelle Twyman)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1 activity continues to progress • Amended Environmental Protection Licences (EPL) 20350 (Narrabri Gas Project) and 20351 (Gunnedah area) was received on 17 February 2025. The amendments included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Alignment of the licence with State Significant Development (SSD) consent 6465, various codes of practice and government guidelines ○ Removing licence conditions with date based obligations which have been completed ○ Addition of the requirement to undertake a financial audit of the cost estimation completed in 2023 ○ Removal of groundwater monitoring locations which are captured in SSD 6465 ○ Requirement for the Leak Detection and Repair program to meet USA EPA Method 21 for leaks • The Annual Review is due for submission to DPHI on 31 March 2025 • Rehabilitation Management Plan has been approved by DPHI • All management plans have been approved for the changed corehole location • All management plans and DPHI approvals are available on the NGP website. • Santos plans to progress engagement on Phase 2 and 3 management plans from Q2 2025. <p>Social Impact Management Plan (Sonya Pascoe)</p> <p>Santos has engaged Onward Consulting (Onward) to develop the Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) for the NGP.</p>

- The SIMP will outline the social impacts of the project, suitable management strategies and how they will be tracked and measured.
- Stakeholder interview key themes identified include:
 - Environment: biodiversity, bushfire safety, local amenity
 - Aboriginal cultural heritage values; past and present
 - Community wellbeing and liveability
 - Employment, industry and business opportunities
 - Engagement and decision making
- Key desktop study findings include:
 - Population growth declining
 - Socio-economic disadvantage
 - Workforce and industry challenges
 - Housing and accommodation pressures
 - Social infrastructure

Onward will join one of the next CCC meetings to present findings in further detail and seek feedback on the preliminary management plan.

Hunter Gas Pipeline (Carlee Miller)

Overview

- The NGP, supported by the Hunter Gas Pipeline (HGP), is critical for energy security and reliability in NSW with 100 per cent of the gas committed to the domestic market.
- HGP is declared Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI) by the NSW Government.
- The underground pipeline route passes close to the NGP, and the goal is to work with infrastructure developers and owners to construct the pipeline to deliver gas to the east coast domestic markets in the shortest timeframe possible.
- Stage 1 early works commenced in December 2023
- Stage 2 construction will commence once the route is finalised and all secondary approvals are in place.

Landholder Engagement & Activity

- Santos has been undertaking extensive engagement for access to undertake survey activities.
- In excess of 11,300 personal landholder engagements have been conducted and 51 community sessions have been undertaken with more scheduled later in March.
- Continue to progress land access agreements and surveys.
- Deed of Option Easement Agreements continue to be delivered.

- Early works have commenced, site one is complete with works continuing on site two.

Narrabri Lateral Pipeline (Carlee Miller)

Summary

- The Narrabri Lateral Pipeline (NLP) connects the NGP to the HGP.
- The project will extend for about 50-60 kilometres from the approved NGP gas processing facility at Leewood to the HGP east of Baan Baa connecting the HGP to the NGP.
- The design is in accordance with the latest version of the Australian standard (AS) 2885 Pipelines gas and liquid Petroleum.
- Sizing – nominally 20" or ~508mm diameter consistent with the HGP.
- The NLP has been declared CSSI by NSW Government.
- The project includes:
 - The construction of right of way and temporary extra workspaces for vegetation stockpiles, crossings, truck turn-arounds etc.
 - A new temporary construction laydown yard at eastern end of the pipeline.
 - New track to access the construction right-of-way.
 - Use of existing and future NGP infrastructure where able to reduce impacts.
 - Limited operational above-ground infrastructure (e.g. scraper stations, cathodic protection system, pipeline marker signs).
- Santos is committed to minimising the impact on communities, landowners and the environment.

General project details

- Workforce to be accommodated at third party camps.
- Proposing a: "21 days on - 7 days off roster".
- Some construction activities will need to be continuous, operating outside of standard construction working hours.
- The proposed traffic routes have been determined (see presentation slide for map).

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- In February, the project was determined to be a 'controlled action' requiring approval under the EPBC Act.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project SEARs have been extended to 9 December 2025, and amended to include the EPBC Act requirements. • Field studies to inform the EIS are largely complete, with some ongoing. • EIS technical reports and chapters are being drafted in accordance with the updated SEARs. • Community and landholder consultations are ongoing. <p>Members were encouraged to provide feedback.</p> <p>Exploration & Other Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEL 1 – Kahlua pilot activity – maintaining wells online and an application to amend the Activity Approval will be lodged in Q2 2025 <p>Santos in the Community (Abby McClure)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Santos is partnering with the Country University Centre North West to fund 13 student bursaries in 2025. This will assist rural students by helping to provide access to the tools they need to develop their academic potential. • Over the holiday season, Santos helped deliver locally sourced fresh food hampers across the community to spread festive cheer. This is a joint initiative with the Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council and other local businesses. • Healthy Harold sponsorship has assisted the Life Education van to reach over 700 children in 14 schools and childcare centres. • Festival of Rugby will return to Narrabri in September 2025. <p>Community engagement and consultation</p> <p>March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community drop-in sessions are planned for the rest of March 2025 for both the HGP and the NLP.

7. Member updates	<p>David Scilley asked if Santos can help lobbying for an improvement in the local hospital.</p> <p>Lynn Trindall indicated there is a push to introduce an Aboriginal Medical Service in Narrabri.</p> <p>Stuart Murray asked Santos for written clarification regarding the Santos response to a question relating to the impact on local aquifers where they stated “..strongly disagrees with the Dept’s</p>
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	statement. Santos has asked the Dept to substantiate this claim". Santos agreed to seek clarification if possible. Stuart Murray tabled further questions for Santos.
8. General Business	NIL

Actions

NO.	ACTIONS	ACTION BY	DUE DATE
1	Written clarification on a question relating to impact on local aquifers	Stuart Murray requested written clarification regarding the Santos response to a question relating to the impact on local aquifers where they stated "...strongly disagrees with the Dept's statement. Santos has asked the Dept to substantiate this claim".	Carlee Miller 30 days
2	Further questions for Santos	Stuart Murray tabled further questions for Santos which will be responded to within the agreed time frame and discussed at the next meeting	Carlee Miller 30 days

Next meeting

17 June 2025 – to be confirmed

Meeting closed

10.40 am

Questions from People for the Plains – CCC Meeting - 17 December 2024	Santos response – 17 January 2025
<p>1. We were recently told by Dept Of Planning that the Narrabri Lateral Pipeline EIS is not expected to go to the NSW Govt until quarter 3 or quarter 4 of 2025. Can you confirm that is the current timeframe for the Lateral EIS?</p>	<p>Santos will finalise the EIS as soon as possible and is aiming to submit the EIS for assessment by around the middle of 2025.</p>
<p>A recent GIPA on the Dept of Plannings Decision Brief on the Narrabri Lateral Project approval of the Authority to Survey states, <i>“Santos has advised that they will need to submit a modification application for the Narrabri Gas Project before they proceed with its operation”</i>.</p> <p><i>“The primary reason is that the current production methods are not consistent or compatible with Santos’s corporate goal of reaching net zero by 2040. It is understood that Santos will utilise a production method they have pioneered in Queensland that allows them to abate more of their greenhouse gas emissions. However, the impact on local aquifers is likely to be more significant”</i>.</p> <p>2. Can you please tell us, what production method is being referred to that will allow Santos to abate more greenhouse gas emissions but put our aquifers at significantly increased risk?</p> <p>3. When would we expect this modification for the Narrabri gas project?</p>	<p>Santos has discussed various options with the Dept of Planning, but Santos has not made a decision on the final Narrabri development concept and whether or not a modification application for the Narrabri Gas Project would be required.</p> <p>Santos is always looking to minimise greenhouse gas emissions. Santos does not know how the Dept concluded “the impact on local aquifers is likely to be more significant” and strongly disagrees with the Dept’s statement. Santos has asked the Dept to substantiate this claim. Santos is committed to minimising impact on local aquifers and minimising greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Santos will continue to identify ways to reduce impacts of our developments by adopting new technology, applying learnings from other operations and optimising design and development methodologies to improve efficiency and minimise impacts to landholders, the environment, water resources and cultural heritage.</p> <p>Santos discusses many things with the Dept but would only consider making a modification to the project if it improved environmental performance and outcomes. There are categorically no plans to make any changes to the project that would increase the impact on local aquifers.</p>
<p>Once the Narrabri gasfield approval was activated, Santos was required to surrender development approval for the Dewhurst South wells because they were rolled in under the Narrabri gasfield one.</p> <p>The surrender happened in August 2023.</p>	<p>Santos pays royalties to the NSW Government for the gas that is being used at Wilga Park. Royalties are calculated in line with government regulations.</p> <p>Between September 2021 and December 2024 Santos produced and provided approximately 4700TJs of gas (which equates to approximately 3.8TJs per day) to Wilga Park Power Station. This gas</p>

<p>The <i>Annual Review for the Narrabri gasfield 2023</i> states that “During the reporting period, gas was transferred to the Wilga Park Power Station from wells constructed under Activity approvals, including Bibblewindi West Pilot, Bibblewindi East Pilot, Tintsville and Dewhurst South Pilot”.</p> <p>But the Dewhurst South wasn’t approved with an activity approval, it was approved by a development consent from the Department of Planning. Activities at these wells should be reported on in the Annual Reviews for the Narrabri gasfield.</p> <p>That old approval (once modified) stated that wells were only to be operated until September 2021. It wasn’t surrendered until August 2023, so, even though they are now operating under the Narrabri approval, we think there were a couple of years when they may have been technically not allowed to be operating at all.</p> <p>Santos has been, as far as we understand it, continually producing gas from these wells for “beneficial use” at Wilga Park power station since that time. It is hard to be sure, because there’s not much detail in the public updates.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Is Santos paying any Royalties on the gas it has produced from these wells for “beneficial use” at Wilga Park since September 2021? 5. Can Santos inform the Committee what volume of gas has been “beneficially used” in this way since September 2021? 6. Does Santos consider that the wells approved under the Dewhurst South pilot are part of the Narrabri gas project and that activities at these wells should be reported in the Annual Reviews submitted for the Narrabri gasfield? 	<p>generates enough electricity to supply around 32,000 households across northwest NSW.</p> <p>The Dewhurst South pilot wells are a part of the Narrabri Gas Project (NGP) as described in the approved NGP Phase 1 Field Development Plan. The activities associated with these wells are reported in the NGP Annual Reviews.</p>
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