
From: Naomi Hogan
Sent: Wednesday, 3 December 2014 11:02 AM
To: Jenelle Moore
Subject: Naomi Hogan Wilderness Society Qns on Notice

Hi Jenelle,

Please find below and attached information in response to the questions on notice for the Wilderness Society from the Upper House Inquiry into the EPA on Monday 24 November.

Firstly, in response to questioning from Rick Colless, my co-presenter Margaret Fleck also requested to be able to provide this answer:

In regards to the heavy metals in the Bibblewindi pond that were also found in the groundwater below, please note that Barium, Strontium and Boron all came into the groundwater from the CSG pond and not the Pilliga soil. This was noted in the Santos and EPA reporting.

Secondly, in response to the question about providing mapping of the recharge areas of the Great Artesian Basin:

The area of of the Pilliga where Santos has been conducting exploration coal seam gas activities and where they propose to build the Narrabri Gas Project of 850 wells, is the Southern Recharge Area of the Great Artesian Basin, also known as Great Artesian Basin intake beds.

There are a range of websites and maps that provide information about the Pilliga area being a recharge area.

This Australian Government map shows the recharge areas in dark shading:
<http://www.environment.gov.au/node/22567>

The CSIRO maps the recharge areas of the Great Artesian Basin in North West NSW on page 7 of this report, figure 3-1: <http://www.clw.csiro.au/publications/waterforahealthycountry/mdbsy/technical/S-GreatArtesianBasin.pdf>

To get a clearer idea of where these recharge areas are in relation to North West NSW towns and the proposed Narrabri Gas Project, the attached map from the NSW Department of Water and Energy shows Narrabri and the Pilliga to the South West of Narrabri in the Southern Recharge Groundwater Source.

I have also attached a CSIRO map of the GAB from the CSIRO National Flagships report 2012.

It is worth noting that when there was reported confusion about the location of the recharge areas of the Great Artesian Basin within Narrabri Council in a recent planning process, I asked the NSW Office of Water (NOW) for a clarification.

NOW replied on 20 August 2014: "as stated in our advice on the EIS (which is on the Planning website), the Southern Recharge Groundwater Source of the GAB overlies the Gunnedah-Oxley Basin and the target formations at these locations."

Most recently, a report pulling together research from the CSIRO, the National Water Commission and other sources used GIS mapping to show the Pilliga is actually the most significant area of GAB recharge in NSW.

That 2014 report by SoilFutures is also attached.

Thanks for your consideration of these questions on notice.

Kind regards,

Naomi Hogan

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