

**Submission  
No 10**

**INQUIRY INTO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE NSW CHIEF  
SCIENTIST'S INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF COAL SEAM  
GAS ACTIVITIES IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Organisation:** Sydney Knitting Nannas & Friends

**Date Received:** 27 October 2019

---

## Attachment 1.

### Submission to the NSW Parliamentary inquiry into the implementation of the recommendations of the NSW Chief Scientist's Independent Review of Coal Seam Gas Activities in New South Wales

#### Submission from: Sydney Knitting Nannas & Friends

On behalf of our group I submit the following information for consideration in the inquiry:

- We express our relief and appreciation that this inquiry is taking place in the context of the pressure being placed on government agencies and the Parliament by Santos, the proponent of the major unconventional gas project in NSW.
- We request that the NSW Government's assessment process for the Narrabri Gas Project be paused until all the Chief Scientist's recommendations are implemented.
- We submit that the performance of this company as proponents of a massive gas field, which has been publicly reported, does not align with the Chief Scientist's recommendations to government about the circumstances under which unconventional gas mining could be allowed to proceed in this state.
- We believe the activities of Santos in the 'exploratory phase' of the Narrabri Gas Project should be considered by your inquiry. In this regard we are forwarding a summary of non-compliance by Santos and Eastern Star Gas both before and since the Chief Scientist's report. (Attachment 2). This report was prepared by one of the Sydney Nannas and highlights the high risks involved in unconventional gas mining that Santos has not been able to avert even while operating a small number of wells. At the same time they continue to propose drilling up to 850 wells in the Pilliga forest close to a Great Artesian Basin recharge area.
- We suggest that your review of the Chief Scientist's recommendations not assume that the gas industry can be trusted to produce the necessary data and modelling. Santos is a good example here in that they have refused government agency requests in the assessment process. If ongoing data production and protective works are done by independent agencies and the costs charged back to mining companies, as the Chief Scientist recommends, then surely the projects would be totally unviable economically.
- We urge you to consider research into the health impacts of unconventional gas mining produced since 2014, which presents even more evidence of the risks to human health than was available to the Chief Scientist at the time of her report. For example:  
Air Pollution and human health hazards: a compilation of air toxins acknowledged by the gas industry in Queensland's Darling Downs  
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00207233.2017.1413221>

- We urge you to consider the ongoing drought and water crisis across most of NSW and how this relates with the requirements of unconventional gas mining to extract groundwater from the coal seam, and in some projects to also waste and pollute huge volumes of water in the process of fracking.
- We urge you to look at the alternatives to unconventional gas and how these have been found to pose none of the serious environmental risks at the same time as being of greater benefit to the economy. See for example:  
<https://www.uts.edu.au/sites/default/files/article/downloads/Teske%20et%20al.%202018%20Renewable%20Narrabri.pdf>

Thank you for accepting our submission.

27.10.2019