

Submission
No 19

**INQUIRY INTO PETROLEUM (ONSHORE) AMENDMENT
(CANCELLATION OF ZOMBIE PETROLEUM
EXPLORATION LICENCES) BILL 2021**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 15 June 2021

Partially
Confidential

Submission to The NSW Legislative Council's Portfolio Committee No. 4 : **Inquiry into the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences)**

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important Inquiry.

Concern for the environmental degradation caused in my local area by drilling for coal seam gas led me to a public information event in Coonamble in July 2019 where I had the opportunity to hear:

Mark Ogge from the Australia Institute who spoke about the devastating economic impacts of unconventional gas in regional areas, explaining a phenomena I had observed- that gas projects DO NOT bring employment and economic advantage (see [Mark Ogge, The Australian Institute – The Economic Impacts of Unconventional Gas - YouTube](#)).

Bruce Robertson from the Institute of Energy. Economics and Financial Analysis who explained the chaos of the domestic gas market (or rather lack of a market) (see [Bruce Robertson, IEEFA, Narrabri Gas Project & domestic gas markets - YouTube](#)). We know that existing gas power stations are vastly under-utilised and that new gas WILL NOT reduce power prices in NSW.

Nicky Ison from the Community Power Agency who provided an overview of the potential of Australian renewables and explained why we no longer needed investment in gas (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=2ITdhMkUAeM&feature=youtu.be>). The rapid development and uptake in renewable energy, together with big batteries, has led Australia's Energy Market Operator to conclude we simply DO NOT NEED new gas projects to meet demand.

The proposed pipeline required to carry the gas to a facility is still in planning and meeting with determined resistance from communities across the Liverpool Plains: no pipeline means no gas means no working facility and an appalling waste of taxpayers' money, continued community insecurity and ongoing threats to air and water.

In the context of climate change (and knowledge that gas is a powerful driver of that climate change) and in the light of the Precautionary Principle it is simply unconscionable that the NSW Government continues to attempt to postpone the inevitable. One step in the right direction would be for this Inquiry to unanimously determine that the only reasonable course of action is to extinguish (all) 'zombie PELS'.