

# SUBMISSION & TESTIMONY TO: HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT OF UNCONVENTIONAL GAS – FEBRUARY 2018

I WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE OF THIS LAND

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MY NAME IS JOHANNA EVANS AND THIS IS MY TESTIMONY. IT'S EMOTIONAL, TRUTHFUL AND BASED ON MY EXPERIENCE. I AM A GRASSROOTS UNCONVENTIONAL GAS ACTIVIST BASED ON THE NORTHERN RIVERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

I first became aware of the unconventional gas industry in May of 2010. I live in a sweet little place, 20km from the nearest town, Kyogle, my paradise, I am so grateful for this place, to be here, we chose it for the water with the idea that we would care for it. My first awareness of the gas industry was seeing a rig sign much like the one pictured right, directing a drill crew to an exploration hole, named Geneva 4, on my way into town one day.



RIG SIGNS ON THE WARREGO HIGHWAY

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SEEING THESE RIG SIGNS NOW DEEPLY SADDENS ME, THEY POINT TO THE LOCATION OF STATE SUBSIDISED, LEGALISED WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND AS I TRAVEL THROUGH THE GASFIELDS IN QUEENSLAND THERE ARE PLENTY. I AM ANGRY A LOT, THIS AWARENESS HAS COLOURED MY RELATIONSHIPS, I NOW HAVE TROUBLE RELATING TO 'NORMAL' PEOPLE, MY DREAMS ARE CONSTANTLY CHARGED WITH DOOMSDAY SCENARIOS WHERE I FIGHT HARD TO KEEP THE LAND SAFE. I AM CHANGED BEYOND RECOGNITION THROUGH WHAT I HAVE SEEN AND EXPERIENCED, SADNESS SITS BEHIND MY SMILE AND A DEEPLY CYNICAL DISTRUST OF OUR SO CALLED LEADERS AND POLICY MAKERS THAT ARE SUPPOSED TO ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR BUT DON'T PERMEATES MY INTERACTIONS, BUT I CANNOT STOP, I'VE BECOME FIXATED WITH TRYING TO SAVE OUR PEOPLE, WATER, FARMS & BUSH FROM THE HARM THIS INDUSTRY BRINGS.

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**BACK TO 2010**, life carried on for me after I saw one of these signs for the first time, I look back on this time and remember the bliss of not knowing, I witnessed the flare that burned on the Casino/Kyogle Road on my travels and I was curious, I saw the odd news item, our area was under threat from Metgasco, people in my valley started talking about a deep vibration that they could hear at night, a strange noise that came and went, seemingly coming from the ground, up through the creeks... turns out Metgasco were drilling over Casino way at that time.

**THE END OF 2012** arrived and with it the blockade at Glenugie down near Grafton. My neighbour showed me images of police assaulting peaceful people. I sat up and took notice, what on earth would cause police to react like that! I started researching



the processes involved in the extraction of the resource. My head spun and with disbelief that the government could allow something so utterly stupid and I dived in the deep end and showed up to Doubtful Creek the day the rig arrived.

I left in tears after being pushed around by the NSW police who had facilitated Metgasco's entry, I became completely committed to stopping the industry from developing further in NSW and went on to meet some of



PAIN COMPLIANCE AND PEPPER SPRAY WERE USED AT DOUBTFUL CREEK

A PROTECTOR WAS BARRELLED OFF THE ROAD AND 3 YEARS LATER CHARGED WITH ASSAULT

the most incredible people that I now have the honour of calling friend – **this is the only good thing that industry has given us, connection and deep friendship** with all different types of people all across the country and sometimes planet. The people I've met at the frontline are some of the most awesome humans I've ever encountered and there are many, many people who work behind the scenes, our own faceless men and women, who I feel the same way about.

**THURSDAY 7TH FEBRUARY, 2013**, rig-in day at Doubtful Creek, much to my families distress, I put my life pretty much on hold and embraced direct action to try and halt the unconventional gas industry.

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I SEE DIRECT ACTION AS A LAST RESORT. A LAST STAND. IT'S WHAT YOU DO WHEN ALL OTHER AVENUES HAVE FAILED. IT WORKS WONDERS, WITHOUT IT WE'D ALREADY HAVE AN INDUSTRY IN PRODUCTION IN NSW. IT IS OUR DEMOCRATIC RIGHT AND THE CURRENT NSW GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO REMOVE THAT RIGHT THROUGH THE INTRODUCTION OF LAWS DESIGNED TO DETER PEACEFUL PROTEST, THESE LAWS ARE DESIGNED TO SCARE OFF CONSERVATIVE CITIZENS FROM STANDING THEIR GROUND, FACING AUTHORITY AND SAYING "No, I WON'T LET YOU POISON THE WATER." THE FINES HAVE INCREASED FOR PROTECTORS AND DECREASED FOR POLLUTERS AND I CAN NOW POTENTIALLY GO TO JAIL FOR HINDERING A RESOURCE COMPANY IN THEIR BUSINESS, EVEN IF THEY ARE CAUSING HARM.

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These new protest laws are referred to by protectors as Santos Law: <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/documents-reveal-close-and-cosy-csg-relationship-between-santos-and-government-20160728-gqfHzg.html> and were formed by clear collusion between industry and government.



**WHEN DOUBTFUL CREEK WAS OVER** I continued researching and made my way to Queensland where I participated in direct action and met many people, heard their stories and witnessed for myself just how massive this juggernaut of an industry was. I was shocked by the sheer size of the industry and the impacts that already existed even though it was still only under construction. I was galvanized from this experience. My eyes now completely open.

**IN DECEMBER OF 2013** I began to prepare for the return of Metgasco, their intention to drill at Bentley was met with fierce opposition. A small group of committed friends decided that they would not wait for Metgasco to begin construction of their well pad but rather draw the line in the driveway and we began to people installations that would stop Metgasco entering the property. Unfortunately this was met with public criticism by other members of the movement and was my first crippling experience with horizontal conflict.

CALL IT WHAT YOU LIKE, HORIZONTAL CONFLICT, LATERAL VIOLENCE, COMMUNICATION BREAKDOWN... IT DESERVES REFERENCING IN HERE BECAUSE IT IS ANOTHER TRAUMA THAT INDIVIDUALS WITHIN THE MOVEMENT FACE AND IT CAN SOMETIMES BE VERY DEBILITATING.

Nevertheless, we persisted in peopling our early blockade and in the end a political solution was reached, the government got cold feet and a damning report tabled by the NSW Police as to why they had to withdraw their assistance to Metgasco was tabled.

The NSW police decided not to police the Bentley protest in the north of the state because of many risks not identified in the document... the risks that are mentioned being safety and litigation: (document quote here taken from the actual Police Briefing)

“RISK TO PUBLIC & POLICE SAFETY (PARTICULARLY DURING MOVEMENTS OF THE 79 HEAVY VEHICLES IN COMPLETION OF THE INSTALLATION IS HIGH TO EXTREME.) THERE ARE MANY RISKS IDENTIFIED AT THAT LEVEL INCLUDING THE RISK OF LITIGATION BEING IDENTIFIED AS CATASTROPHIC.” NSW POLICE



SIGN DIRECTED AT POLICE AT THE BENTLEY BLOCKADE: THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMUNITY PROTECTING IT'S ENVIRONMENT AND PROTESTING UNJUST LAWS THAT WILL ALLOW POISONING OF IT'S WATER, AIR, LAND AND FUTURE GENERATIONS SHOULD BE PROTECTED BY A POLICE SERVICE. THE CHOICE IS YOURS.



AGL SECURITY MANHANDLE A GLOUCESTER RESIDENT WHILE HALLIBURTON WORKERS WATCH FROM THE BUS [STILL TAKEN FROM VIDEO BY NAOMI CRYSTAL]



POLICING AT GLOUCESTER [PHOTOGRAPH: DEAN SEWELL]

At the end of the Bentley Blockade I slept, I was exhausted, for weeks, grateful for no on-site injuries, grateful that none of my committed friends were harmed and that we did not have to carry through with our protection of the site. The trauma and burn out felt at the end of this protest were clearly tangible and after a long hard fight with Metgasco many committed people took a well deserved rest.

**We move ahead now** to Gloucester in late 2014 and the arrival of Halliburton, the largest oilfield services company on the planet and the inventors of fracking, they had come to the picturesque town of Gloucester to frack for AGL. AGL were organised. They were clearly a mile apart from the dodgy Metgasco. Their security guards had absolutely no qualms in laying their hands on protectors and did so on many occasions, traumatising local residents and visiting protectors alike. Aided by sympathetic policing Halliburton eventually managed to frack four wells.

Here I witnessed security given unprecedented powers to manhandle people in a way I hadn't seen before. A big company like AGL gave permission for their security to get very physical, they caused physical injury and mental trauma.

The Gloucester campaign opened my eyes to what I perceived as collusion between NSW police and private security and the unfairness of what I saw galvanised me further. This blockade was then subjected to an increased police presence, the police on most mornings outnumbered the peaceful people whilst they facilitated Halliburton's entry to the frack sites.

**During 2015** I returned to Queensland once again to witness to the untold damage that unconventional gas mining was causing. The damage inflicted not only on people but land, air & water. I've cried with and for people who should never have had this industry thrust upon them. People who have been subjected to vexatious litigation by gas companies, people who have lost their dreams, I'm grieving now for the loss of country that has been swallowed and desecrated by this greedy psychopathic industry that has steam-rolled over it with no regard for the damage it does.

I've borne witness to the violence and lack of duty of care that has been inflicted on peaceful protectors. I've seen gas company employee and police-persons alike subject protectors to life threatening situations all to aid a resource company.

At the end of 2015 I took my first trip out to the Pilliga forest, it was long overdue and with the construction of the Leewood Water Treatment Processing facility 20kms from Narrabri beginning construction I chucked my hat in the ring and put my feet on the ground.

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I IMMEDIATELY FELL IN LOVE WITH THE PILLIGA AND HER PEOPLE.

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I arrived as a bushfire was being controlled. I was taken on a tour by Dan Lanzini. He was working his guts out to get a camp set up so people would have a place to be whilst they gave Santos hell. He kicked off the start of the Pilliga Push campaign that endured the burning hot summer of 2015/2016 delaying the construction of Leewood well past their construction deadlines. Still to date there is no brine crystalliser built at the property. **This is a testament to direct action. It works.**

During the well publicised Pilliga campaign protectors were pepper sprayed, had safety ropes cut on treesits, had heavy machinery continue working around them, were assaulted by security (yes, chased & bashed) had forklifts used to lift them when they were locked on, had eggs thrown at them at close range and were subjected to verbal abuse and intimidation.

I've seen police people cry because of what is demanded of them by their bosses, the stress caused to them by what they are expected to do takes it toll, we are all human. I've seen both decent policing and appalling policing and I'm sorry to say I've seen police lie in court under oath. I'd like to thank the police people who have the courage to remain decent in front of some of their not so decent colleagues.

I've personally been subjected to verbal abuse from both gas workers, contractors and police. I've witnessed both physical and mental abuse of peaceful people, intimidation, incitement to riot, deception and dangerous driving.

I've witnessed police protecting violent contractors that have assaulted peaceful people. I've been assaulted. I've been spat at, I've been almost run over and I've been called every name under the sun. I've been privy to the detailed diaries of fellow protectors that have strived to get justice through the legal system over unfair treatment only to have every door slammed shut in their face. All of this and more occurred during the direct action campaign in the Pilliga.

**BELOW: A SANTOS CONTRACTOR EXITED A VEHICLE AND STARTED THROWING EGGS AT PROTECTORS, HE THEN PROCEEDED TO PHYSICALLY ASSAULT PEOPLE AS RIOT POLICE WATCHED FROM ACROSS THE ROAD**






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I SEE A GROSSLY UNDER-REGULATED INDUSTRY THAT IS ALLOWED TO POLLUTE WITH IMPUNITY, THIS INDUSTRY IS PROTECTED BY A DEEPLY CORRUPT GOVERNMENT THAT SWAPS STAFF WITH INDUSTRY REGULARLY, THEY ARE ONE AND THE SAME, A GOVCORP. HERE IN NSW, THE STATE GOVERNMENT HAS FAILED TO RESPOND TO THE LOGIC STREAM, THAT IS TO SAY, THERE HAS BEEN NO DEFENSIBLE RESPONSE TO THE SCIENCE BEHIND THE CONCERNS OF CITIZENS, TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND THE FARMING COMMUNITIES.

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Health and social impacts, water impacts including groundwater impacts, the threat to the unique ecology of the Pilliga forest, air pollution.... the list goes on.

The complete disregard of these key issues demonstrates unequivocally that the environmental regulators and their ministers hold the public service obligations and remit of their office in contempt; as does Premier Berejiklian and past Premier Baird, who it can be shown have actively promoted illegal mining activity through the reduction of fines to such an extent that they no longer act as a deterrent.

CSG companies are in the middle of a takeover of water resources in this country and the government is aiding them. I call treason. Who is going to jail for this? It should not be activists, traditional owners, farmers or community members and it should be for longer than 7 years.

The camp wound up half way through 2016, the council required works to be done that were just beyond the resources available. I'll be forever grateful to Maria, the owner of the Pilliga Pottery (whose land the camp was on), without her support the camp would never have happened.

**KERRI TONKIN WAS PEPPER SPRAYED AND THROWN OVER MACHINERY WHILST BEING LOCKED ON**

**SANTOS CONTRACTOR/EMPLOYEE WEARING A DIFFERENT CONTRACTOR/EMPLOYEE HARDHAT**



**THE END OF 2016 CAME AROUND**, momentum in the campaign was appeared to be lost, the NGOs involved went to sleep, refusing to believe that Santos still intended to submit it's long awaited EIS and riding on the hope that the oil price would slam the industry hard enough and make it economically unviable.

These were nervous times for me, I began to feel very afraid and my hope that we could end the nightmare dwindled. Horizontal conflict reared it's ugly head again as the movement started to eat itself.

**Cue February 2017** and all of a sudden we had the Santos EIS to deal with, a short submission period in which to deal with a massive document, at the same time APA launched their intention to build the Western Slopes Gas Pipeline which would support the north-west gasfields in taking gas to market.

My visits to the north-west have continued and I have more friends now than ever before, this makes me smile.

Direct action continued in November 2017, this time in Coonamble but not with Santos. APA (Australian Pipeline Association) were attempting to piece together their EIS and despite no permission being given they were accessing properties to get information. The community stood up and said no.

This was my facebook post, it sums up my experience:

"Geeze, I thought Santos were bad, but APA, wow, a whole new level of scumbaggery has been reached, APA private security captured filming on private land with kids around, bio-security act breaches, unsafe driving practices, outright manipulative lies (non-existent court order – did APA lie to the police!!!!), breaches of the ATS involving contractors and alleged multiple trespassing issues and then to top it all of the company claims it's being harassed by community members!!! It's pretty bloody obvious who is doing the harassing.

Add to this list the fact that it's harvest time and farmers and their families are flat out!

When you see big strong Aussie farmers in clear distress it hurts and cuts you hard, APA are on notice that they are causing unnecessary distress, landowners are given a very wide window of time in which they can expect APA at their gate and this is creating heartache, stress and loss of productivity. The company gets around in unmarked vehicles so no-one knows who they are making them impossible to identify.

One only has to drive around the region to witness the very visual opposition to this company. Fencelines lined with No Trespassing signs, old farm machinery painted up, yellow triangles declaring "No Coal Seam Gas Mining", it's bloody obvious that the community aren't fooled and are determined to resist the pipeline and the ensuing gasfields that would certainly accompany it."

**Early February 2017** and I'm now in mode to have a massive year. Reaching for a state-wide and Australia-wide ban, aim for the stars, become limitless, look past conflict, keep going forward, give unwarranted criticism and ego the attention they deserve, which is no attention. Just move forward.

**BELOW: IMAGES FROM THE COONAMBLE BLOCKADE, LANDOWNERS REFUSE ENTRY TO APA**



I am copying in here a formal complaint I made to Santos in April 2017, it details many of the issues I have raised in my testimony and is referenced at the end. The letter was noted by Santos Narrabri office but not acted upon and lodged as a formal complaint as per my request. (see reply from Santos at the end of the letter). As no action was taken I then sent the same letter to the Santos board members. I never received a reply.

I have since attempted to contact the Santos office in Narrabri by email and by phone. My emails never get a response and my phone calls go unanswered and unreturned.

**OPEN LETTER TO: SANTOS NSW LIMITED**  
OFFICIAL LETTER OF COMPLAINT TO SANTOS NSW LIMITED &  
ALL CONTRACTORS, EMPLOYEES AND FINANCIAL BENEFICIARIES OF SANTOS NSW

I, Johanna Evans of [REDACTED] lodge an official and unmitigated complaint against the company trading as Santos NSW LIMITED and its employees, whom, against overwhelming opposition<sup>1</sup> continue to pursue coal seam gas both in the forest known as the Pilliga – the Biliga to the Traditional Owners of the area and the surrounding farmland/rural areas.

I am no stranger to the harm done by coal seam gas mining. My own home, still, after many years of campaigning for the full cancellation of licences and a ban on unconventional gas remains unprotected by legislation. I have seen the damage done to community and environment by coal seam gas in Queensland – by Santos operations near Roma and other companies on the Western Darling Downs. Untold harm and damage has been done to the health and financial security of my friends, their families and the land itself.<sup>2</sup>

I am lodging this complaint because I am deeply concerned about the welfare of the humans (both friends and family) who live in proximity to your unconventional and invasive gas development areas in North-west NSW where you have mapped several large gasfields. Self-harm (or the threat of) is becoming more evident in the area, with a local farmer recently voicing his worries to media<sup>3</sup>. I find this incredibly alarming.

This complaint is also being lodged on behalf of the unique flora and fauna of the forest which do not have a voice and are Australia's natural heritage that require preservation for future generations, not obliteration for short term gain.

**REASONS for COMPLAINT:**

- a) deep distress is being felt by humans because of the continuation and pursuance of coal seam gas in this region – mental and physical health is at risk because Santos continue to pursue a resource that is known to have grave consequences in regards to human health.<sup>4,5</sup>

A peer-reviewed and published report on the health of full-time residents in CSG areas for the period ending 2011 shows an increase in hospitalisations for cancers and blood/immune diseases in CSG residents.<sup>6</sup> The period 2011-2017 would see an exponential increase in exposures; as the rate of spread of drilling and infrastructure is incremental.

Anxiety is felt by both Traditional Owners of the Biliga forest and by the landowners in the surrounding areas because Santos continues to pursue Coal Seam Gas. Anxiety if left untreated can lead to serious mental health issues – suicide/self-harm rates and mental health issues are already climbing in the Barwon electorate and Santos do not need to be adding to these statistics with their activities<sup>7</sup>

- b) harm has already occurred<sup>8</sup> (aquifers have been damaged) – this harm cannot be healed, there is no certainty that the underground water systems are not damaged beyond repair from the previous exploration activity of Eastern Star Gas and Forcenergy, and large fracks have occurred, product water has been spilled and dieback areas are becoming more apparent both along Bohena creek and in the forest areas, also, the fragmentation of habitat is a serious threat to the biodiversity of NSW' biggest inland forest<sup>9</sup>
- c) the exploitation of State Forest for commercial gain that does not benefit Australians is unconscionable – you do not own this land, pay next to nothing for its exploitation<sup>10</sup> and therefore have no right to mine it for your commercial benefit, also, the recent announcement by Barnaby Joyce (advocate for your business and Minister for Agriculture) is deeply flawed and will also lead to more heartache for farmers<sup>11</sup>
- d) your treatment of peaceful non-violent people who protest your activities leaves me concerned that life threatening injury could occur in the near future, your own contractors have been involved in aggressive acts and in one instance charged by police after throwing eggs and assaulting women (to the best of my knowledge you still employ this contractor named

despite your own guidelines stating that you don't tolerate this kind of behaviour.) You have in the past allowed contractors/employees to be involved with police operations, sometimes using heavy equipment in very close proximity to people, one activist peacefully protesting your operations reports "When the police came they removed all my support crew from the area but Grant {Sergeant Bell, currently under investigation for another matter involving your company} allowed a Santos contractor to stay with me. I believe this person's name is [REDACTED] but when asked his name, he said "It does not matter," and "Jamie". So I will call him Jamie for this report. Jamie had been threatening me and other peaceful activists on and off for weeks. He had used bolt cutters to cut D locks off the necks of Knitting Nannas. In contravention of WHS regulations, he directed three massive construction vehicles to start work while two quite vulnerable people were locked on inside the facility."<sup>12</sup>

Why does Santos condone this kind of behaviour?

- e) your continued bullying of the community into accepting your gasfield operations with one example being your threat to revoke sponsorship of the Narrabri Golf Club if the club agreed to host the Select Committee on Unconventional Gas Mining (Bender Inquiry)<sup>13</sup>
- f) your continued insinuation that detractors of your business are vandalising and thieving from your operations – there is no proof of this – no charges have been laid. Your assumptions are clearly misguided. Recent media from industry mouthpiece Energy News Bulletin could only have been fed from Santos Narrabri Office to journalist Anthony Barich in relation to a gas flare being run over by a vehicle. Quote: "It seems to be that time of year for Santos. Police also investigated a March 7, 2016 incident where an estimated \$75,000 worth of equipment was either damaged or stolen at nine Narrabri facilities – including solar panels, batteries, solar generators and security cameras."<sup>14</sup>
- g) your clear intention to influence government policy against the interests of the majority of the citizens of NSW with the introduction of the 'Santos Law' – emails GIPA'ed between Santos & the NSW Government clearly show close collusion between yourself and the government in regards to stemming the stream of legitimate protest through manipulation of law against your offensive business by introducing tough new laws designed to deter people from carrying out their civic duty of protecting land, air & water for future generations<sup>15</sup>
- h) your frequency and amount of political donations – if Santos was in fact a legitimate business with a 'social licence to operate' then you would not have to donate so much money to the government. What kind of influence do wish to gain with such large donations?<sup>16</sup>
- i) the amount of methane and other emissions will cause the quality of the air to be diminished and contribute to climate change – of methane – "It is a powerful greenhouse gas; up to 80 times more powerful than carbon dioxide emissions that are causing most concerns about climate change" says researcher Tim Forcey.<sup>17</sup>
- j) you continually claim that the Narrabri Gas project will not impact the recharge zone of the Great Artesian Basin because the gas is located in a 'low' recharge zone.<sup>18</sup> This is untrue and there are copious amounts of peer reviewed literature available to the public that proves without a doubt that drilling activity in the project area will have an impact on the recharge zone.<sup>19</sup>
- k) your claims that aquifer interconnectivity does not occur have also been proven to be unreliable, there is no data for the project area and this in itself is the fault of the proponent and should be remedied before any further well bores are drilled, aquifer interconnectivity does occur in other areas and there is no reason it would not occur in the complex geology beneath the project area.<sup>20</sup>

#### **AND LAST but certainly not LEAST**

- l) the Pilliga State Forest has significant areas of koala habitat and this iconic creature is threatened with extinction if we fragment and clear it's habitat. Santos' own material says that no koalas exist within the project area but this is untrue. A study was conducted by Ethical Ecology which found koala and scats within the project area.<sup>21</sup>

I write this letter to Santos as an individual with no political or environmental organisation affiliations and I sourced my references from a large array of similarly damning material. Why so many untruths Santos?

I place SANTOS NSW LIMITED on notice of harm and I request that you withdraw from your coal seam gas activities in the north-west before serious harm occurs whether directly or indirectly to human, animal or environment due to the above complaints.

I request that all correspondence to this letter is expedited and occurs in writing to the above address and I request that this letter be placed on the Santos Narrabri Gas Project website as a complaint received (I note that to date Santos claim no complaints have been received about their business).

This letter will also be publicly published after a timely response period has elapsed. It is time that Santos acknowledge that there is a wide variety of people across Australia who are opposed in every way to this project and the product. Santos must make the responsible decision to cease pursuance of the resource, thereby acting in the best interests of your shareholders and the wider community.

Surely Santos management, executive and staff must have concerns for the welfare of the people who are stressed, anxious, unsure of the future and spending unfair amounts of time, resources, energy and financial capital resisting this flawed and failing business model?

At your upcoming AGM it would be timely for you to announce a graceful withdrawal from pursuing Coal Seam Gas in NSW, anything else is pure folly and will be the subject of more complaints, harm and potential catastrophic impacts to humans.

Johanna Evans

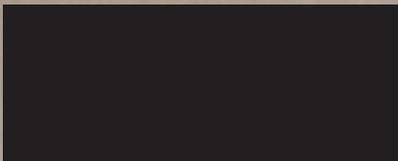
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- 3 <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-04-07/nsw-town-divided-over-coal-seam-gas-proposal/8423394>
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**Santos**  
We have the energy.

12 May 2017



Dear Ms Evans

I have received your letter dated 18 April 2017 on 10 May 2017 that is addressed to Santos NSW and all contractors, employees and financial beneficiaries.

Santos notes your point of view but does not agree with your assertions, observations or suggestions. We do, however, respect that you have a very different perspective to us.

Santos is proud of its operations and its long contribution to the Australian economy and community. We take great pride in working our petroleum tenements in full accordance with the regulatory approvals received from the government and regulatory authorities. The safety of our workers, the community and the environment is our utmost priority.

The proposed Narrabri Gas Project is subject to a development application that is with the State and Commonwealth Governments for determination. The NSW planning legislation requires that the Department of Planning and Environment place the development application on public display and seek input from the community.

If you choose to make a submission, the Department will consider your submission and take your views into account when considering the proposed Narrabri Gas Project application.

Information on how to make a submission is available on the Major Projects site of the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) at [www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Annie Moody".

Annie Moody  
Team Leader Community and Land

SANTOS LETTER IN REPOSE TO SUBSTANTIVE COMPLAINT,  
NOTE THAT THEY ARE PROUD OF HOW THEY OPERATE.

## **IN CONCLUSION**

This Testimony does not come close to detailing all of my experience. I have a multitude of stories I could tell, of things I have seen, stories I have heard, abuses I have witnessed.

The struggle to protect land, air and water for future generations continues, the support grows daily, the industry is being exposed slowly, unfortunately though the abuses continue as the government turns a blind eye and the industry is still expanding. However, the community are more determined than ever that we will halt the industry. The lives of our friends who are directly impacted depend upon it. The environment depends on it.

I'm afraid that you will read this testimony as an attack on policing and police people in regards to the resources industry, but this is not the case. The police would not be placed in this position if the will of the people was what legislation protected but the opposite is true. The dollar value of the resource in the ground has corrupted the decision makers to such a degree that it is now difficult to tell industry and government apart. We are faced with a dire future in Australia if corruption and collusion between industry and government is not addressed.

Australia now has it's own refugees, a mass of people who are unfortunate enough to have had industry constructed on top of them, they are being forced through no fault of their own to live amongst petroleum refineries. I acknowledge these people.