



Preparing for the Independent Planning Commission's public hearing for the Narrabri coal seam gasfield

The Pilliga is Gomeroi country

The Independent Planning Commission

- Is the decision-maker because there have been more than 50 objections
- A panel of Commissioners is chosen by the Commission Chair to consider and determine the development application
- If told to by the Minister, the IPC must hold a public hearing
- Plus, the IPC meets the proponent, the Department of Planning, and usually conducts site visit/s

These people will make the final decision on Narrabri coal seam gas



Steve O'Connor (Panel Chair)



John Hann



Prof Snow Barlow

Key dates

10 July: deadline to register to speak at the public hearing

20-24 July: public hearing will be held

31 July: expected end date to make submissions

4 September: final decision deadline

Department of Planning

Assessment materials since 2017

Environmental Impact Statement

Submissions from the public

Submissions from Government agencies

Response to submissions

Advice from experts on water, social impacts, economics, Aboriginal heritage, hazards and risks

Further information from Santos

Department's "Assessment Report" summarises impacts compared against government policies and *EPBC Act* considerations

Independent Planning Commission

Invites submissions

Meets proponent

Meets Department

Holds public hearing

asks for more info

Makes decision

All meeting transcripts published on IPC website

Can seek more info and extend deadline for decision

Deadline is currently 4 September

Department's Assessment Report

Summarises:

- the project
- the process
- the impacts of the project

Compares impacts to policies - eg

- Aquifer Interference Policy
- Approved Methods for Assessment of Air Pollution
- Major Projects Offset Policy

The IPC needs to know how this document is wrong or what information it misses.



Role of public hearing

- Strips the right to challenge the outcome in court
- IPC can require witnesses to appear (eg EPA)
- Demonstrates public sentiment about the development
- You have the personal attention of the panel



What must the IPC consider?

Environment: water, biodiversity, air pollution, all greenhouse gases, land use compatibility, amenity

Social: cost of housing, jobs, health, community wellbeing

Your submissions

The public interest

(see section 4.15 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*)

The public interest

The public interest includes **the principles of ecologically sustainable development**

- the precautionary principle,
- intergenerational equity,
- conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity,
- polluters should pay for costs of pollution
- prices should be based on full life cycle costs of goods and services.

Nuts and bolts: how to register

Go to: www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/projects/2020/03/narrabri-gas-project

Use the “online registration” form

Or download the registration form, fill it out and email to ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au

Options for “direct/indirect,” length of time

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE REGISTERED

How to submit

Visit www.csgfreenorthwest.org.au/narrabri_decision

For submissions guides

Visit www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au

and search for
Narrabri Gas Project

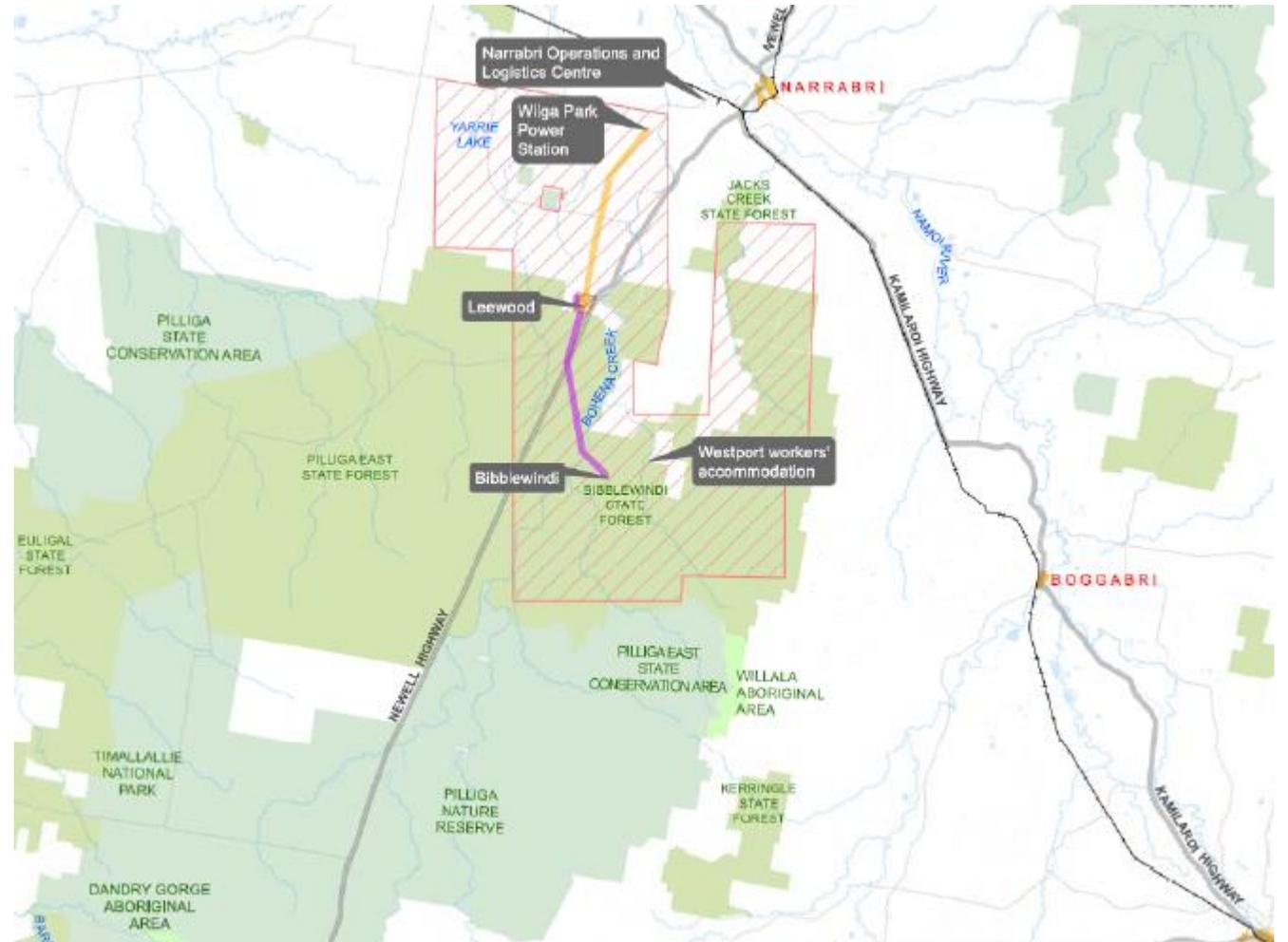
Follow the links to

HAVE YOUR SAY



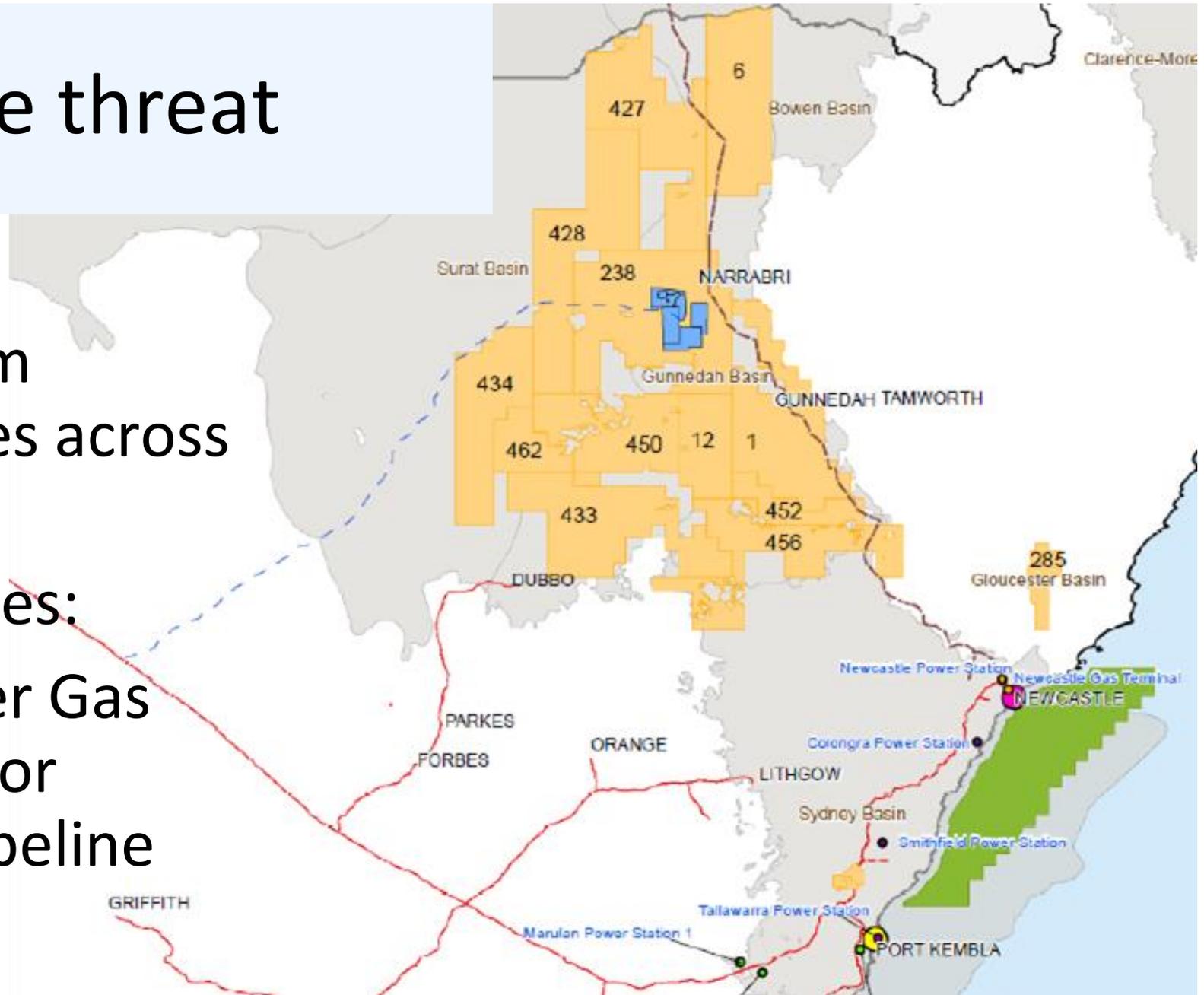
Basics of the proposal

- 850 coal seam gas wells across 95,000hs of the Pilliga
- The EIS attracted 22,721 submissions, 98% were objections.
- Majority (63%) of the 470 submissions from the immediate local area were objections.



Big picture threat

- 11 other petroleum exploration licences across North West NSW
- One of two pipelines:
Queensland-Hunter Gas Pipe to Newcastle or
Western Slopes Pipeline



Impacts of the gasfield

Water: Santos will remove **37.5 billion litres of water** from deep below the Pilliga and treat it in the Leewood water treatment facility.

This treatment will produce up to 840,000 tonnes of **solid salt**, laced with **heavy metals**, for which Santos still has no disposal plan.

Social: Santos' own assessment found that there would be “almost certain” impacts on **housing affordability** for Narrabri residents.

Gomeroi heritage: The Pilliga is a place of enormous significance for Gomeroi people.

Biodiversity: close to 1,000 hectares will be cleared in small patches, including koala habitat.

Greenhouse: Total greenhouse gas emissions could be 127.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, or 5 million tonnes a year – a nearly 1% increase to Australia's emissions!