Dear Commissioners,

The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) is recognised as the principal non-government organisation for public health in Australia working to promote the health and well-being of all Australians. It is the pre-eminent voice for the public’s health in Australia, and seeks to drive better health outcomes through increased knowledge, better access and equity, evidence informed policy and effective population-based practice in public health.

PHAA welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on the additional material provided by Santos to the consultation on the Narrabri Gas Project.

Significant development applications should be considered in relation to their potential impacts on the environment, communities, health, and jobs and the economy. A quick word search of the additional material provided by Santos provides an indication of the level of consideration given to each of these potential impacts:

- environment/environmental/environmentally/ecology/ecological/ecologically = 120;
- community/communities = 23;
- health = 4;
- job/jobs/employment/employee/economic/economics/economy/economically/econometrics = 218

As crude an analysis of the document as this is, it clearly demonstrates where the priorities for Santos lie, with economic references outstripping health references by almost 55:1, community references by about 10:1 and environmental references by almost 2:1. As highlighted in our original submission of 10th August 2020 on the Narrabri Gas Project, there are clear and serious environmental and health impacts of this project, and that the public’s health will not be protected by the recommended conditions currently in place.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require additional information or have any queries in relation to this submission.

Yours Sincerely,

Terry Slevin  
Chief Executive Officer  
Public Health Association of Australia

Patrick Harris  
PHAA Branch President  
New South Wales