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**Media Release, May the 19th, 2025**

**Gomeroi Traditional Owners disgusted at Conditional Approval of Narrabri Gas Project**

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In 2022, the Gomeroi People Claimant Group refused Santos' offer and permission to turn the Pilliga Forest into an industrial zone and deface its cultural significance, its waters and resources. Today, the Native Title Tribunal has disregarded the Voice of Traditional Owners by finding that Santos' contribution to Climate Change and impact on the lives of Gomeroi People can be mitigated and has given the nod to the project going ahead.

"With the help of government, Santos and other mining companies have avoided considering climate impacts on ordinary people from their actions. In no way can these impacts be mitigated even if you believe Santos lies. Today's decision is just putting profits before community," said Polly Cutmore, Traditional Owner, from Moree, who was elected to deal with the corporate giant on behalf of her Nation.

"We stood strong, united behind our culture against the gas company. Despite this decision, our mob should never be afraid to stand up for country, never be afraid to do the right thing for future generations", said Polly.

For the first time in NSW, a Native Title Claimant Group allowed a full vote of their Nation to decide what course they should take in relation to a mining company. "This is consistent with our Law, but the NSW and Australian Government doesn't respect indigenous decision-making and they dragged us through the legal system to get to this point. But this decision is not the end, because we will keep resisting this gas invasion on our Country," said Dennis Griffen, elder and Traditional Owner from the Liverpool Plains, where Santos want to place their main pipeline.

Santos will now push for their Production Licenses to be issued. But it is not clear how long this process will take. Question for the Project still remain, such as the viability of their connecting pipeline to the Hunter.

"The Narrabri Gas Field is never going to go ahead. There is too much opposition from the community, which has been strong and unwavering against its pipelines and the gas field itself for many years. Maybe the Government should start listening to communities again?" said Polly.

Time for Santos to Yanay!

**Mehi Centre**

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