

Summary of consultation

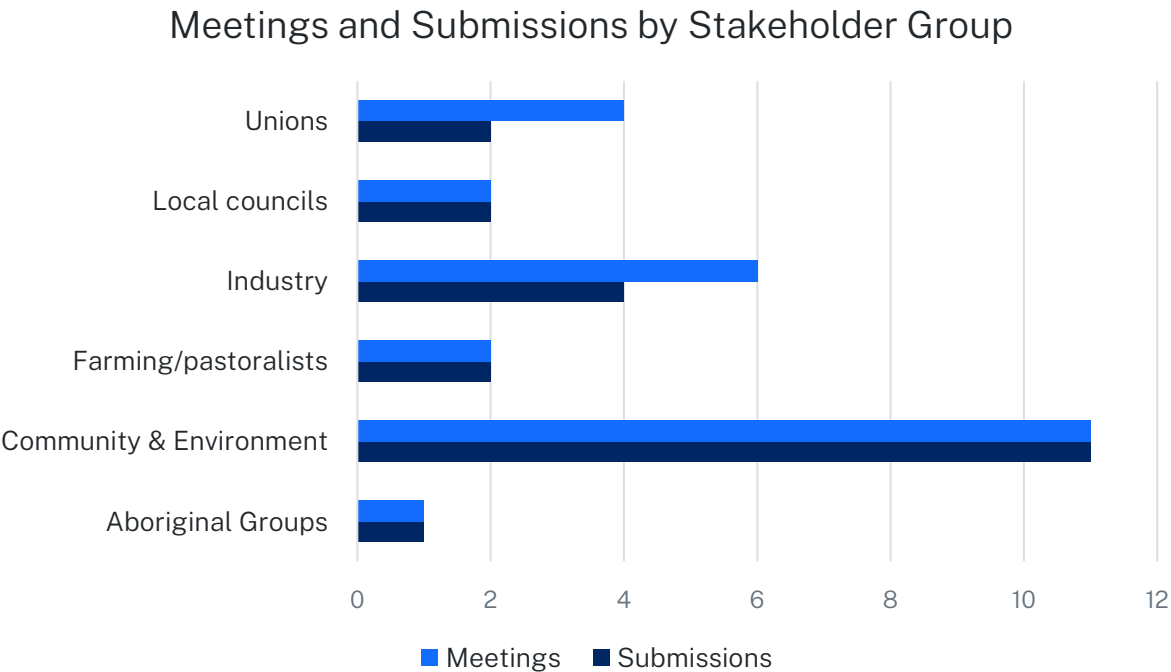
Review of the Future of Gas Statement

October 2026

Consultation summary

Engagement with stakeholders across industry, environment, farmers, councils and community groups, including meetings and written submissions.

22 submissions were received from stakeholder groups and 58 submissions from individuals.



What we heard: key points

Domestic Gas Reservation



Work with the Commonwealth and States on the proposed scheme and interactions with NSW position

Alternative energy sources



Consider demand reduction and development of alternatives to gas to ensure gas remains available

Support sector demand



Maintain secure, reliable and affordable gas supply to gas consumers, particularly industrial users

Land, water, agriculture



Assess impacts of gas development, including cumulative impacts and land use conflicts

Net zero



Statement should consider the role of gas in net zero and emissions impacts

Exploration and production



Regulatory framework provides certainty and enables exploration and development of NSW's gas resources where impacts can be managed

Community benefits



Gas development should not negatively impact host communities

Native Title



Ensure project proponents comply with requirements under the Native Title Act 1993

Transparency



Statement should be evidence based and informed by stakeholder feedback

Ongoing engagement



Project proponents must engage with landholders, communities and Traditional Owners

What we heard: Gas demand

Assessment of gas demand will need to consider impacts of the domestic gas reservation scheme, decarbonisation, sector demand and the role of alternative fuels.

Domestic Gas Reservation



- Statement should not pre-empt finalisation of the design
- The scheme will reduce the need for more gas development
- The scheme will impact financial viability of gas projects, including the Narrabri Gas Project, by oversupplying the domestic market

Alternative energy sources



- New gas is not needed and imports are preferable to new production
- New electricity generation should consider the role of renewable fuels
- Alternatives to gas should be considered for hard to abate sectors

Support sector demand



- New gas investment is needed to support future manufacturing and electric power needs
- More gas supply is required to reduce prices

What we heard: Impacts to environment and land use

Approval processes for gas exploration and development must undertake careful assessment of environmental impacts, especially impacts to water and NSW emissions targets, and provide certainty to proponents and landholders.

Land, water, agriculture



- Concerns around water contamination and pressurisation and need for potable water if contamination occurs
- Gas projects should not be permitted on prime agricultural land, including the Liverpool Plains
- Cumulative impacts of gas projects and water contamination risks should be considered in gas project applications

Net zero



- Gas use and development is incompatible with NSW's net zero targets and methane reporting rules should be reviewed
- Gas will help to enable the energy transition

Orderly development



- Reform is needed to reduce barriers to investment and improve project certainty
- Landholders hosting gas projects have constrained access to insurance

What we heard: Gas exploration and production

Views on gas development are mixed, but where exploration or production occurs communities and native title holders should be consulted and impacts assessed.

Exploration and production



- Support and opposition of release of new areas in the Far West
- The impacts of exploration on farming on landholders should be considered and managed
- Gunnedah Basin is most prospective for gas
- Petroleum Exploration Licenses (PEL) for 1 and 12 should be rescinded or not renewed
- Gas from exploration and the Narrabri Gas Project will be too expensive and not immediately available

Community benefits



- Communities should have community benefits and investment in infrastructure to mitigate disruption and harm

Native Title



- The Narrabri Gas Project and all gas development must comply with Native title

What we heard: Consultation and engagement

Gas is a contentious issue and gas policy should be informed by data and stakeholder input.

Consultation



- Public consultation required
- Modelling, assumptions, evidence, and demand forecasts underpinning policy decisions for Gas Statement should be released

Engagement



- Where there is gas development, there is a need for enhanced engagement with impacted communities, landholders and Aboriginal people