

## WHAT COMMUNITIES SAY

Comments from participants in the study included:

***“they’ve capitalised, but they haven’t paid off their capital yet...people in those businesses are still nervous that the growth will last long enough to be profitable.”***

(Reference 2, p. 40)

***“If you work in town at a local shop, or the council, you’re doing incredibly poorly, because your rents have gone through the roof and suddenly you’re flat out paying to be able to live in town.”***

(Reference 2, p. 38)

### SOURCES

1. Allen Consulting Group, 2011. The economic impacts of developing coal seam gas operations in Northwest NSW. Report to Santos. Available at [http://www.santos.com/library/1112\\_The\\_economic\\_impacts\\_of\\_developing\\_CSG\\_operations\\_in\\_NW\\_NSW.pdf](http://www.santos.com/library/1112_The_economic_impacts_of_developing_CSG_operations_in_NW_NSW.pdf). See Table 31, page 18.
2. Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining, 2013. Energy resources from the food bowl: an uneasy co-existence. Identifying and managing cumulative impacts of mining and agriculture. Project report. Available at: <https://www.csrin.ug.edu.au/publications/energy-resources-from-the-food-bowl-an-uneasy-co-existence-identifying-and-managing-cumulative-impacts-of-mining-and-agriculture>
3. Walton, A., McCree, P., & Leonard, R. (2014). CSIRO survey of community wellbeing and responding to change: Western Downs region in Queensland. CSIRO Technical report. CSIRO, Australia. Available at: [http://www.qiseta.org.au/publications/tech\\_reports\\_papers/socioecon-proj-3-community-wellbeing-report.pdf](http://www.qiseta.org.au/publications/tech_reports_papers/socioecon-proj-3-community-wellbeing-report.pdf)

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**Australia Institute**  
of Transport and Infrastructure

## THE LOCAL ECONOMIC

## IMPACTS OF

# GOAL SEAM GAS

## DEVELOPMENT

Gas companies claim to bring economic benefits to local communities. While some people and businesses do gain from coal seam gas (CSG) development, many other businesses and industries can be negatively impacted and jobs in other sectors are often lost as a result.



**Resource projects require specialised work forces, often flown in to location**



## JOBS

“Santos estimates the Narrabri Gas Project will employ between 1,200 and 1,800 people during the 3 year construction period and then 200 people once the gas fields are operating.

However, these jobs are not necessarily in the region, or even new jobs. Most construction jobs will be Fly-In Fly-Out (FIFO), and many local jobs will be skilled workers poached from other local businesses.

Santos’ own modelling estimates that developing CSG would add **only 16 new jobs** in the North Central plains region once the short construction period is over.<sup>1</sup>

“**The jobs that you hear about, they don’t seem to be there**

(Reference 2, p. 39)

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## OTHER INDUSTRIES

Queensland’s Darling Downs region has experienced an expansion of coal and gas mining similar to that faced by Narrabri and North West NSW.

The mining and gas industries funded a study on the impact of CSG and coal mining on businesses and the community in the Darling Downs, the most detailed study of this kind in Australia.

The results of the study are clear – people who work in CSG and mining had a positive view of these industries while other industries and the community felt they had been negatively impacted.

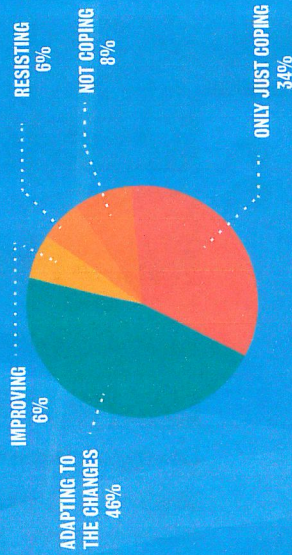
### The mining and gas industry-funded study asked:<sup>2</sup>

**“With CSG and coal development over 5 years, has the local economy become better or worse for your sector?”**

Gas	BETTER
Mining	BETTER
Agriculture	WORSE
Local business	WORSE
Local government	WORSE
Community	WORSE

## SOCIAL IMPACTS

Another study in the Darling Downs looked at impacts on communities from gas development. The study was carried out by the CSIRO and funded by the gas industry. It found that only 6% of people felt the community was improving while many were struggling to cope with the changes the industry had brought.<sup>3</sup>



While the mining and gas industries employ some people, and some businesses profit from servicing the mining industry, overall:

- **CSG is a small, short-term employer**
- **It drives up costs for local businesses**
- **CSG negatively impacts communities**