

20,000 tonnes per annum. So not huge amounts in the scheme of the project that will deliver close to 50% of the natural gas requirements for NSW.

**Quentin Dempster:**

“50 tonnes per day sounds like an awful lot of salt?”

**James Baulderstone:**

“Ah its two truck loads Quentin.

**Phillip Pells:**

(Groundwater specialist – UNSW Adjunct Professor and Independent consultant to industry)

“They are saying in their only answer that they will produce 22 cubic metres per day for each bore of water that will contain on average 16 grams per litre of salt which equated to 3 ½ tonnes of salt per day per bore hole. Now if we assume that when they have the operation field they might have a hundred or so bores operating um at one time as they roll more in and old ones die. Then that works out at 350 tonnes of salt per day not 50 tonnes of salt per day and if they have 200 bores operating at ne time that’s 700 tonnes of salt a day not 50 tonnes of salt a day and these are their numbers they’re not my numbers.

**Quentin Dempster:**

“We asked groundwater specialist Phillip Pells a University of NSW Adjunct Professor and independent consultant to industry for a preliminary risk assessment from publicly available documents on planning departments and Santos websites he noted what he believes is a glaring omission.

**Phillip Pells:**

“What I find most disturbing having gone through the studies one for this both for the Eastern gas time and also now by Santos is they are in fact silent on the Great Artesian Basin, the words’ actually not even used and I find that’s quite staggering that um in the environmental impact statement after environmental impact statement when they talk about impacts on the groundwater and the surface water there’s no mention of the Great Artesian Basin.

**Quentin Dempster:**

“Phillip Pells says the onus is now on Santos to clearly show that its CSG project area is within the south eastern section of the Great Artesian Basin recharge zone and for the Planning Assessment Commission to place this fact at the top of any depressurisation, water depletion and contamination risk assessment.

**Quentin Dempster:**

“Great Artesian Basin at risk nothing to worry about says Stantos.”

**James Baulderstone:**

“Santos has a great deal of experience in dealing with the Great Artesian Bain it is actually ah the aquifer that underly our traditional Cooper Basin so we have a great deal of knowledge and experience in dealing with that aquifer system the amount of water we’re going to extract is pretty small again in the scheme of things, to put that into context we’re talking a maximum extraction rate of between 3 to 5 gigalitres per