

I write this submission to state my *strong* objection to the Hunter Power Station (Kurri Kurri Power Station)

My family is an affected landholder of the potential ***Queensland Hunter Gas pipeline*** that has been loosely identified in the media as a potential pipeline gas supply option for this proposed power plant development. I and many other potentially affected landholders have individually and as a community all-along the proposed 825klm pipeline route connected to one another in our unified and virtual unanimous opposition to this project either on our properties or more broadly complete opposition in our region due to many evidenced reasons.

Affected landholders from the Gunnedah Shire area and that of the neighboring Liverpool Plains Shire Council area have been raising a wide and diverse range of issues and concerns over the approved corridor for the *Queensland Hunter Gas pipeline* with relevant State Government Departments and the proponent company *Hunter Gas* direct. The most significant issue raised in our area is the constructability of a high-pressure gas pipeline in the Vertosol soils commonly referred to as “*Black soil*” of our immediate region.

The attached *MGPA-SFC report “Assessment of Western Liverpool Plains Area With Respect to Risks Associated with Proposed Buried Gas Pipeline Installation”* is a 2011 report prepared specifically for the *Mullaley Gas and Pipeline Accord* community group. The findings and opinions in this report are based on research undertaken by Robert Banks (BSc Hons, Certified Professional Soil Scientist, Dip Bus) of SoilFutures Consulting Pty Ltd, independent consultants Gunnedah.

The report highlights significant issues regarding the emplacement of high-pressure gas pipelines in Vertosol soils due to the high shrink and swell properties of these very high clay content soils. The report identified that gas pipelines would have “***a high risk of failure***”. Further analysis within the report concludes that “***it is impractical to place a safe and stable gas pipeline through Vertosol soils***”.

Evidence to support this conclusion is the exposure of the Central Ranges gas pipeline at multiple sites following a rainfall-runoff event in 2010. One of these exposures occurred on the property ‘Barana’ north of Coolah which required the laying of a significant area of geomembrane, 3000 tonnes of rock and considerable earthworks over eight months to rectify. *Pages 6,7 & 8 of attached MGPA-SFC Report.*



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In response to local landholder concern over this Robert Banks 2011 report *Hunter Gas* commissioned their own analysis and scrutiny of the 2011 report. In March 2021 *Hunter Gas* delivered the attached report back from *Strategic Environmental & Engineering Consulting (SEEC)* compiled by Andrew Macleod (Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSS) and Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC)) who responded: ***“In short, I concur that movement associated with highly reactive clay soils (such as the Vertosol of the Liverpool Plains) presents a significant risk for a buried pipeline”.***

Hunter Gas in response to the local farming community’s concern and denial of access to private lands, and their own acknowledged “Black soil” constructability issues highlighted by *SEEC* report; *Hunter Gas* are actively pursuing the use of crown lands and travelling stock routes many locations up and down the approved pipeline route. In April 2021 *Hunter Gas* advised landholders they are looking at potentially 130 route movements, and they have not been in contact yet with all affected landholders.

There is strong opposition to this pipeline traversing hundreds of kilometers of farming land of the Liverpool Plains, who’s farmers will indefinitely continue to hinder and deny access to the *Hunter Gas* pipeline proponent to indefinitely delay progressing this pipeline project, on our land, and in the next step of the planning process – the seeking a pipeline licence, and/or an Authority to Survey with the relevant state departments.

Hunter Gas can’t simply deliver a report to landholders that states clearly there is ***“significant risk”*** of this pipeline in our paddocks and expect to get into them.

Landholders from Moree, Narrabri, Boggabri, Gunnedah, Breeza, Quirindi, Willow Tree, Murrurundi, Scone, Aberdeen, Muswellbrook, Singleton, Stanhope, Lambs Valley, and small parts along the route are well connected to each other and most are working under legal advice from Solicitors in regards to denying access to the pipeline proponent.

I urge the proponent of *this project* to be highly aware of the landholder opposition to the *Queensland Hunter Gas pipeline* – who’s affected private persons will vocally oppose this potential pipeline and its connection to this project.

Regards

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