

Anthony Roberts MP
Level 3, Suite 302
230 Victoria Road
Gladesville NSW 2111

Email: lanecove@parliament.nsw.gov.au

26 March 2017



Dear Mr Roberts

I am writing to you as a resident of the small community of Dalton, NSW. You will be aware that AGL has sought an extension of two years, which will allow them to build a 1000 megawatt gas-fired power station at Dalton.

This submission is a plea that their extension and modification **NOT BE GRANTED**. The current expiry to begin construction of this power plant is **July 2017**. This **expiry date must stand**.

Having this gas fired power station in our valley makes no sense, in fact it is absolute stupidity, and a blatant disregard for the good, hard-working people who live here.

I live in Dalton because it's a quiet, beautiful and an affordable place to live if you want the country lifestyle.

I am a horse rider (this is my passion) and having a quiet dirt road to ride my horse along is very much part of the appeal of living in Dalton. There is only one road that can be used for riding because it is gravel and does not have much traffic – and that is Walsh's Road - the road that accesses the site of AGL's proposed power plant. I rode my horse along there this morning. It was so quiet, still, and peaceful. The only noise to be heard was some magpies in a nearby tree, and some frogs croaking in a dam, enjoying the return of water after last weeks' much needed rain.

If AGL goes ahead with this power station, this leaves nowhere safe to ride horses. I am not the only one who rides horses in the area. There are at least six other ladies and several children in Dalton that I know of, who ride their horses along this road. Other communities such as Yass, Gunning or Murrumbateman are unsafe and not suitable for riding horses along roadways.

As I was riding I couldn't help but imagine the booming noise, foul smell and just what a massive eye sore this power station is going to be. I encourage you to get out of your city office, come down here and see what a beautiful, quiet place this is, and see first-hand why you **cannot** allow this power station to be built.

We can't afford to move

For me, moving closer to Canberra for work is impossible due to the high cost of rural properties – you essentially have to be a millionaire, and for a single person this is just out of the question. If this gas fired power plant goes ahead I have no doubt many of us will have no choice but to leave the area. This has been the case at Uranquinty near Wagga Wagga where a similar yet smaller power gas fired power station was built.

There are people who also have their properties up for sale (before we knew that AGL was returning). There is no hope now of being able to sell because no-one will want to live near a filthy, stinking, eyesore of a gas fired power plant with each of its six stacks billowing out more than 14 tonne of pollution per hour!

If this power plant goes ahead AGL should be made to purchase all properties within at least a 10km radius of the site.

The idea that this is 'peaking' power station is just another lie by AGL. No idiot spends millions of dollars to build a power station to run 'every now and then'. [AGL's own website](https://www.agl.com.au/dalton) states that gas power plants will take over as coal plants withdraw from the market. Also peak times are suggested as being summer. In summer here we get very strong easterly winds. Where is the pollution going to blow to? Straight onto the village.

From AGL's website: <https://www.agl.com.au/dalton>

Running on gas, the proposed Dalton Power Station would provide a cleaner source of power that would ultimately assist to reduce reliance on coal-fired power, a long-term aspiration of a cleaner NSW economy. The power station would form part of the electricity market's response when old high emission coal plants are withdrawn from the market. Gas turbine plants will play an increasingly important role, providing firm capacity to back up intermittent renewable generation. As 'peakers', gas-fired power stations are important when demand peaks – particularly during summer months when energy use is high.

Better alternatives

I am no expert on gas-fired power plants but aren't we all moving towards green energy? Despite AGL's claims – there is nothing 'cleaner' about this gas-fired power station. I would rather see 200 acres of solar panels – like what the ACT government has invested in down near Williamsdale. AGL are just looking for a cheap quick win at the cost of the environment, our agriculture, and hundreds of people in our local community.

Sucking us dry

This gas fired power plant is going to suck up all of our ground water. It isn't sustainable and people have already claimed that where tests were done, a bore level dropped 50cm in half an hour. If that happens in half hour what happens after 6-12 months? Bore water is essential for our farming community – we need it to water crops and our animals.

No transparency, dishonesty and corruption

When AGL entered our community in 2011 they did nothing but lie, were arrogant towards the people here, and threw stats and figures at us that we as a community have been able to challenge and prove that AGL has been completely dishonest with us. They claim to have done community engagement. I work in public relations and they fell very short of any type of 'community engagement' - all that they did was 'spin'. They sent out 4 or 5 glossy newsletters that were full of 'fluff'. They attended a community meeting and when asked by a community member whether they had consulted with anyone at the Dalton primary school, they responded and said "yes, we've spoken to the principal". Everyone turned to the community member at the back of the hall, then looked at the idiot from AGL and said "he is the principal"! They were caught lying red-handed, and this was not the only occasion.

Toxic pollution trapped in a valley full of people

You do not have to be a scientist of any description to know that the volume of pollution that will spew out of this power plant will be damaging for our environment and for peoples' health. Dalton is in a valley and the pollution will be trapped here – settling into our water tanks (many of us do not have town water and rely on rain water), dams, creeks and the river, all of which our livestock drink out of, and all within close proximity of AGL's site.

AGL's air quality and wind monitoring was conducted at Goulburn airport, **over 60km away** from Dalton. They installed two monitoring stations at Dalton after the community forced them to. One at the primary school and the second one is sitting at the bottom of a gully surrounded by trees. Just

another one of its dodgy tactics. This is a company that has not been transparent, honest, and has been very sneaky with every move it's made. We only found out about them seeking an extension from a journalist. Where was the community engagement? There was absolutely no information provided by AGL yet they stated in the Goulburn Post that they had consulted with us.

The noise

One resident who AGL tried to "hush" through a confidentiality agreement, claims that AGL offered to double glaze his windows and insulate his roof and told him that the **windows will rattle and he will not be able to sleep of a night**. Seriously!! HOW DID THIS GET APPROVED IN THE FIRST PLACE?

The answer seems that we have a very dishonest company (AGL) that did back handed deals with a previously corrupt Labor minister/government at the time of its approval. Given the approval occurred at this time there needs to be a review of this entire project and approval process. I believe Tony Burke was the federal minister for environment at the time, and he should front a senate inquiry and explain why this was approved.

If this power station goes ahead there must be very stringent, independent checks put in place. AGL cannot be trusted to police itself, nor should it have the right to.

- An independent party should monitor and report monthly to the public, on the air quality and noise levels.
- There needs to be an independent and immediate mechanism in place to shut the plant down if noise limits and air quality thresholds are exceeded.
- AGL must contribute financially to upkeep of roads, social amenity and maintain the environment.
- Where land and home owners who are located within 10km of the site of the plant, wish to relocate AGL must be forced to purchase the property at an above market rate.
- The public must be given a list of what full-time positions will be available at the plant. From what we understand it will be largely un-attended, managed out of Sydney, and provides no employment opportunities for local people whatsoever.

Mr Roberts this is a chance for your Liberal government (and the Nationals) to right a very big wrong undertaken by the state and federal Labor governments. Your decision to stop this power station once and for all is critical.

We as a community have had this power station hanging over our heads for five years, and we simply can't have it causing us stress and uncertainty for another two years. We've had a gutful of dealing with a company that thinks they can come in here, treat us like idiots and steam roll us. Enough is enough. Shut this project down!

Yours sincerely

Ms S Gibbons
Dalton, NSW

cc:

Angus Taylor – Federal Member for Hume

Barnaby Joyce – Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources

Josh Frydenberg - Minister for the Environment and Energy

Niall Blair - Minister for the NSW Department of Primary Industries