

SUBMISSION AGAINST AGL APPLICATION FOR EXTENSION OF PROJECT APPROVAL

I am writing to lodge my objection to AGL's proposed extension of time for the commencement of work on the proposed gas fired power plant project in Dalton NSW.

I am opposed to the project and to an extension of time for the following reasons:

My husband and I purchased our home in Dalton with a view to relocating from Sydney for a quieter, healthier lifestyle. We were vaguely aware of power generation projects in the Southern Tablelands and had agreed prior to searching for a property that we did not want to purchase a home near wind turbines, large industry or major development.

After we purchased our house in Dalton, we remained living in Sydney until we moved to Dalton in 2014. At no time from our purchase in late 2012 until we moved to Dalton in 2014 was it ever disclosed to us that AGL had a 5 year approval for a proposed power plant. We would never have purchased in Dalton had that been disclosed to us at the time. Once we became aware of the project after moving here, we were greatly relieved to be informed by local community members that AGL had decided not to proceed with the project.

In my view AGL has had five years with which to make a decision to start building the power plant and it has chosen not to in this time. They have had 5 years to continually assess and consider this project and should not be granted an extension because they hadn't determined the project within the time granted by the Department.

AGL has shown no commitment to the community in the last five years and I am also very concerned about the lack of consultation by AGL with the local Aboriginal community in its original proposal for the project.

In AGL's Cultural Heritage Assessment within its Environmental Assessment, a number of Aboriginal sites bearing artefact deposits were found that would be directly impacted by the project. In my opinion AGL's attempt at 'consultation' with the Aboriginal community was greatly flawed. In its 2009 report AGL states:

"The Land Council was contacted by phone and email and a representative was invited to participate in the field survey of the power plant site. Arrangements were made to meet a representative in Dalton, however, the representative did not attend the survey. A draft copy of this report was forwarded to Onerwal Local Aboriginal Land Council for review and comment. No response was received from OLALC."

This is not representative of fit and proper consultation with the Aboriginal community. Without any comment on record from the OLALC consultation cannot be assumed. I find the assertion that a phone call and email to set up a meeting, and mailing a report for comment, is considered due consultation with our first people. It is deeply alarming.

In addition to the above, I also support the following general concerns of this community:

- That the area has recently been identified as an environmental hotspot with the recent finding of the southern pigmy perch and the yellow spotted southern bell frog in our water ways. The frog was thought gone for thirty years. A power plant will surely threaten these two endangered species.

- Noise and emissions generated by the plant is a major issue.
- The plant will be built on a seismic fault line.
- Our unique colonial history will no longer be showcased for tourism.
- AGL has failed to control noxious weeds on its lands. The invasion of native plant communities by exotic weeds threatens our native plants and animals and it threatens the livelihoods of our farmers (AGL's neighbours).
- Since the AGL announcement to suspend the DPP project the village of Dalton has grown. Families have moved here with no knowledge of the proposed plans by AGL. People have made financial decisions about buying property and building in our community since the AGL announcement in October 2012. An extension of time for AGL would only serve to leave a cloud of concern and fear hanging over the new community members for the next two years.
- The project potentially has significant financial economic and environmental impacts that we did not foresee or were warned about. If the DPP is built our families may end up with property that is worth less than what they paid for it and borrowed to buy it.
- Dalton is a farming community and a tourist community. We are not technically qualified to work in a gas fired power plant suggesting that the plant will be operated remotely, not by locals.

People come here to experience a peaceful quiet country village. The life this town has built together is special, its history and environment and community is unique. We cope with being disadvantaged in so many ways already because we chose to live here. But this one just isn't fair.

This plant will destroy Dalton in so many ways. It's heartbreaking, please don't allow this extension.

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