

AGL Dalton Power Project Submission

Submitted by; Johanne Shepherd, Dalton.

I oppose the Dalton Power Project. I moved into the Dalton area in November 2016 and now I find that a 750MW and ultimately up to 1,500 MW gas fired power station is proposed to be located only 3km from Dalton. I cannot understand how a power station could be approved so close to an urban area. My question to those who are proposing this project is, would they choose to live 3km from a power plant? I suspect they would strongly oppose the project.

I moved from Canberra to the country to escape city pollution, noise and traffic as I suffer from an immune disorder which means illness and allergies and am particularly sensitive to air born chemicals. Clean country air, water and peaceful surroundings support my health. Dalton is a town that I visit regularly to see friends, attend an art class and other functions and go to the local garage. My concern is that the town of Dalton is in a valley and often has fog hanging for hours in the morning with air inversions that would potentially trap hazardous gases from the proposed power plant. My house is 14 km by road from the power station site and one may think that's far enough however how far do we have to be? Last summer I could clearly smell the smoke from fires 60 km away near Sutton.

When I attended the public meeting last week I found others have recently moved into the area. Close to both Canberra and Sydney, the Dalton area is fast becoming a sort after place of residence for a growing number of people who are drawn to the area for its natural beauty and tranquility. What effect will a gas plant have on our environment and on land prices? Many of us, like myself have sunk all our resources into building or renovating our homes and if property prices fall due to the power plant we will not be able to move even if we want to.

I have a background in environmental studies and have seen the environmental assessments, however whatever is said or written, nothing detracts from fact that in real terms gas power plants effectively lead to increased traffic, destroy habitat or drive away wildlife, pollute the air and deplete water that is already in short supply; in short power plants lead to environmental degradation.

The effect of environmental degradation particularly within a short distance from a town cannot be measured. The stress to local residents that has been created by this proposal also cannot be measured. In the proposal I read that there are only 100 people in Dalton who will be affected. In reality the Dalton population is much larger as many people, like me, live on acreages in the surrounding countryside. For example there were over 100 people at a meeting called at short notice last week.

On the topic of meetings we would not have had a chance to meet or make submissions except for chance conversations where local residents learned that AGL were going ahead with their proposed power plant. At the meeting we were told that we only had two weeks to make

submissions and yet AGL failed to inform us. As a newcomer to the area I can't believe I didn't receive anything in the mail letting me know what AGL are planning to do and the time frame I had to respond.

Many are fearful and we have every reason to be. It's clear that Dalton has much to lose and nothing to gain from this proposal. The electricity from the plant, like the gas carried in the line will be used in the city, money from the gas plant will go to the local council with no guarantee that it will be used for the Dalton area and contractors bought in to set up the plant and trained staff will do the ongoing work. I understand there will be a position for a part time cleaner.

I read on AGL website in February 2016, AGL announced the strategic decision that exploration and production of natural gas assets will no longer be a core business for the company due to the volatility of commodity prices and long development lead times. Meanwhile AGL is committed to a large number of renewable energy generation plants. When renewable energy generation is the way of the future, it raises the question why AGL would want to sink so much money and resources into another non-renewable gas fired power plant that will eventually be abandoned and end up a huge industrial eye sore.