

## Dalton Power Project

As land owners and rate payers in the Dalton area, we strenuously object to AGL's application to extend the lapsing date of the approval for the Dalton Power Project by 2 years (MOD 1).

We object for the following reasons:

1. **Uncertainty and distress** – Extending the current lapse date from 19 July 2017 for a further two years will result in ongoing uncertainty and distress for the people of Dalton and the surrounding community, especially since AGL proposes to use this extension to consider substantive modification to the project scope.
2. **'Engagement' not addressing genuine concerns** – Although AGL proposes to use the extension to consult with the local community and stakeholders on potential modifications to the DPP, this will not allay concerns. The promise of a 'community consultation committee', 'best practice standards' for public participation, a 'continuous improvement process' for review and feedback is empty rhetoric aimed only at selling the project. It does nothing to address the community's genuine concerns about the impacts of the projects – raised noise levels and harmful emissions, consumption of scarce water resources and effects on water quality, the potential for hazardous incidents and damage to livelihoods – impacts that will reach beyond the designated project boundaries.
3. **Noise** – Industrial noise is a source of stress and sleep disturbance, and is especially noticeable in quiet rural communities where background sounds are natural ones. The lesson from the Uranquinty Gas Fired Power Station, the facility most comparable to the one proposed for Dalton, is that it has never been able to meet the noise standards promised by the company during the application process.
4. **Seismic activity** – Neither the geological nor the hazard analysis sections of AGL's previous impact assessment report address Dalton-Gunning Zone's well-documented status as one of the highest hazard earthquake areas in eastern Australia, and the significance of geological activity for hazardous incidents arising from the gas power plant.
5. **Better alternatives available** – AGL want the extension in order to review their proposal in line with current technology and energy market circumstances. However, a gas fired power station using different turbines is not the answer to ensuring adequate, reliable and consistent electricity supply. A better choice is battery storage to optimise the production and use of wind power from existing facilities in NSW. Nor is gas generated electricity likely to reduce power costs as claimed, when gas itself is increasingly dear and the largest driver of electricity prices spending on electricity transmission and distribution networks ("poles and wires").

6. **Empty promises about jobs** – AGL claims there will be 250 employees for each stage of construction, and 5-10 employees in the operation phase. They suggest that 'AGL will seek to source as many construction workers and facility operators from the local region as possible'. There is no basis for this claim. Infrastructure projects are constructed by tier one companies with their own preferred contractors and workforces, who will come and go from the area during the construction phase. And, as to the 5-10 operators, it is most unlikely they will be drawn from the area, and will they even be based here? Rather, the community stands to lose jobs through impacts on its key industries – farming and tourism – and businesses that service these.
7. **Probity** – AGL are applying for the extension under the now repealed Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Although this is permitted for previously approved projects it is not appropriate where, as in this case, the proponent has been found guilty of failing to disclose political donations under section 147 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, with a charge relating to the Dalton Power Project. Transparency is crucial in any decisions about this project.