

I wish to lodge my objection to AGL's proposed extension of time for the commencement of work on the proposed gas fired power plant project at Dalton (DPP), NSW.

I wish to lodge my objection to the whole Dalton Project.

I wish to make known my complete dissatisfaction with the original Environmental Assessment

**A little bit about me:**

I was born and raised in Sydney and have worked my entire career in Sydney and its surrounding suburbs. I have travelled this great country having enjoyed camping and spending time in rural Australia. It has been a dream of mine and my wife to find our own little piece of paradise outside life in the big city with all the problems that come with city life such as the crime, pollution, noise and traffic. In 2014, I found Dalton which has a great community and is an easy 2.5hr drive from Sydney. Dalton has fresh air, a quiet lifestyle, picturesque country side and friendly locals that took us in and accepted us no questions asked. I purchased land in the Lachlan Hills Estate mainly for camping and as an escape from city life. In 2016 my love for Dalton became so great that I made the big decision to buy a block of land in the Dalton village, build my dream home and relocate my family from Sydney to Dalton. This was a huge lifestyle change and a huge financial investment and commitment to Dalton. My house was completed late November 2016 and we moved in just before Christmas. My family and I were living the dream until two weeks ago when at a town meeting I learnt about the AGL Gas Fired Power Plant being proposed for Dalton. I had no prior knowledge of this project and feel very let down by the system. I paid good money to ensure that my interests would be looked after, legal fees, real estate fees and council fees. It appears that no one has any responsibility for disclosing this "State Significant Project" whilst in the process of buying and building my dream home. All the reasons for moving out of Sydney and living in Dalton have been destroyed. If I had known about this project there would have been no way I would have jeopardised my family's health & financial security by building a family home two kilometres from a large gas fired power plant and really who in their right mind would!

**I'm opposed to an extension of time & the whole DPP for the following reasons:**

- I have invested so far just over \$500,000 dollars completing my new McDonald Jones home. The next phase was to start landscaping my 4 acres that the house sits on. Gardens, driveways, trees, a shed, horse yards, drainage, fencing and many other projects to complete my dream. These plans are now on hold until AGL decides whether the DPP goes ahead. If this projects starts my property will be significantly devalued, most likely unsellable and by all accounts unliveable being so close to the plant.
- I have also invested \$100,000 on a 50acre lot on the Lachlan river about 8km's from town and as the "crow fly's" about 4km from the proposed AGL plant. I purchased this lot in 2014 and received no consultation from AGL and no disclosure regarding the DPP from either the vendor, real estate, or solicitor just like my house block. This lot will also be significantly devalued if the DPP project proceeds.
- I'm opposed to this plant for not only financial reasons but for health reasons. There are many published papers on the dangers of the pollutants that are emitted from gas fired power plants. These pollutants mainly NO<sub>2</sub> (Nitrogen Dioxide), CO<sub>2</sub> (Carbon Dioxide) and PM (Particulate Matter) are dangerous to human health and contribute greatly to greenhouse gasses which then contribute to climate change. Dalton is in a valley and we often have very foggy mornings. I worry that all the airborne pollutants being emitted from the Dalton Gas Fired Power Plant will be trapped by the fog and not dispersed as AGL claims. I have to live here with my family under this toxic cloud which will endanger my families health. The proposed DPP is also very close to our primary school. The Dalton school children being subjected to these toxic conditions are unacceptable.
- The original EA states that NO<sub>2</sub> emissions will exceed World Health Organisation maximum levels by 20%. Low frequency noise limits under the NSW Industrial Noise Policy will be exceeded. The original EA fails to demonstrate that an adequate water supply will be available for

this project without the need to take most of the town water supply or truck the water in which would result in unacceptable traffic conditions for Dalton and the surrounding area. The overall truck movements each day during construction is not adequately addressed in the original EA.

- The noise alone is worthy of an objection. The peace and solitude in Dalton is only broken by birds, sheep and the occasional car or truck. I am now expected to listen to the noise of trucks driving through Dalton that are going to the power plant 7 days a week during construction. Once built the trucks might stop except for possible water deliveries but I will then have the unpleasant drone of gas turbines to break the tranquillity of my peaceful country town.
- Dalton would be by Sydney standards a poor town and would most likely rank low in the average household income compared to Sydney suburbs but Dalton is rich in lifestyle and community spirit. Many residents have limited internet capability and limited mobile phone reception. There are residents in Dalton that will struggle getting updates about this project as this is mainly being communicated via email and these residents must rely solely on "word of mouth"
- AGL have had five years & are now asking for a further two years to consider their options. According to AGL construction of the DPP would take over two years to complete. This gas plant may not be operational for another four to five years. The advancements in renewable energy over the last five years has been significant, particular battery storage for solar. What advances will we see in the next five years? This plant at a cost of \$1.5 billion could be redundant in five years, redundant before the plant even starts? Given our climate, our government and government departments should be leading the way in renewable energy to eliminate our reliance on fossil fuels for power. AGL should be encouraged to spend their \$1.5 billion dollars on renewables not on old technology using fossil fuels which will only contribute to our ongoing problem with climate change. We must protect the future for our children, grand kids and future generations that will follow.
- According to reports that I have read, utilisation of gas generators fell to 15 per cent last year which represents a massive under-utilisation and a sharp fall from previous years. This DPP makes no sense if these reports are correct.
- I'm also informed by members of the local community that AGL as landowners have done nothing to be part of the community even to the point where they have ignored their responsibilities as a land owner to control noxious weeds, particular "Serrated Tussock". This demonstrates a total lack of care for the Dalton community and as a land owner they are endangering the lively hood of farmers who live and work near the AGL land.
- I'm also concerned about environmental issues such as the pigmy perch which was recently found in the Oolong creek. I was involved in a community project that helped clean up this waterway of weeds, rubbish and the replanting of native plants to help sustain this important waterway for this endangered native fish. The night sky is an absolute joy to behold in Dalton the milky way is just spectacular and my brother who is an amateur astronomer often comes to Dalton just to view the night sky. This experience that I share with my brother will also be in grave danger with the light pollution and toxic emission's being spewed from the power plant.
- AGL has had five years to make a decision to start building the power plant and they have chosen not to in this time. Surely 5 years is enough time to assess the viability of this project. It seems most unfair to subject the Dalton community to another two years of uncertainty.

## **In Conclusion**

There are so many concerns with this project which was originally granted approval under some questionable legislation the famous 3a. It just seems unfair that AGL's request for an extension is also reviewed under this same legislation. I believe a lot has changed over the last 5 years and this extension

from AGL should be treated as a new proposal and go through the proper approvals process. I implore the Department of Planning and Environment to look at their Mission Statement and reflect on their core value that is on their website and be guided by this to refuse the AGL request for an extension of time. By doing this the department would be helping to make the lives better for the people of Dalton and make Dalton a great place to live and work. The Department's decision to refuse the AGL request can help protect our homes, our business, our farms, our heritage, our community, protect our jobs and protect our environment.

AGL is a very large public company that delivered revenue of \$11.150 Billion in the 15/16 financial year and has 3,358 employees compared to Daltons population of approximately 100. Dalton has very limited resources to fight AGL. My only hope is that the livelihood and survival of one small country town is more important than the corporate greed of AGL.

Yours Sincerely

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