

I wish to submit **my most heartfelt 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 **state that I am also completely opposed to the construction** of this Power Station in my neighbourhood.

I can't comprehend why this project has not been considered to be constructed in a more remote un-populated location, still in proximity to the necessary gas pipeline and electricity power lines, and why it needs to be sited on top of any populated area. I am certain the large state of NSW has many areas more suitable for such a project, in particular if they are not much good for anything else, like salt plains or other non-arable land. It beggars belief that the location needs to be sited right on top of a pastoral community.

I am concerned that our little town may go the same way as Urquinty, NSW, where the land became devalued, with the introduction of their power plant – a smaller type of plant than that planned for Dalton. I understand that house sales in Urquinty are almost non-existent, as no one wants to live next to a power station. I fear that this will be the case for the land around our town.

I have lived in Dalton for the past 10 years, and been involved in community activities in this area for the past sixteen years. In that time, I have seen the community slowly get on its feet and start to have some "town pride" emerge again, after the impact of years of severe drought. I belong to a Crown Lands Trust Committee for our local public hall, and have seen for myself the generosity and community spirit that lives in this town. At a working bee to clean up our hall, some 40 townspeople turned up to help. Also tree-planting and refurbishment activities of the Oolong Creek have been equally supported by similar numbers.

I love the country lifestyle, and after years of living in a big city, it is a real pleasure to return to my roots and enjoy being able to work in my large vegetable garden and in my workshop uninterrupted by modernity, surrounded by open fields of livestock, gum trees full of native birds, visits by the occasional kangaroo, echidna, goanna, skink, possum and snake. I would certainly hate to have the serenity shattered by a noisy, noxious fume-producing, power station and to see the impact that will have on the native fauna, which I am certain would move on. I have already seen how the spectre of uncertainty over this proposal has affected the morale of the people in my town. People are very upset, angry and frightened of a future if this proposal were to proceed.

As I, along with most people in this area believed, that when the project was shelved some 5 years ago, we could get on with our lives and forget about this. In the past couple of years, there has been an influx of families moving to our community, completely unaware that the power station project was even a remote possibility. They have invested in new housing and pastoral development, bringing with them a new lease of life to our town. Since the announcement about AGL's request for an extension, completely out of the blue, without any contact in the intervening 5 year period, any further potential investment in our town

has ground to a halt. Now when people hear where we live, they don't see it as a growth area any longer.

I have a great deal invested in this town, in terms of my property, family and wellbeing and do not want that to be impacted by the thoughtlessness of a multi-national.

I would be extremely disappointed to see that "town pride" ebb away because of the actions of a multi-national company, who clearly has no sense of empathy for the way they impact on a community. The current feeling among locals is one of anger, bewilderment and sadness that our concerns have not been taken seriously in the past.

If this ill-considered site were to remain a contender for this proposal there are a number of things I believe bear much more investigation prior to any granted extension:

- The impact of fumes on people's health, the impact of fumes on livestock and environment
- The impact of the increased transport (especially during a construction phase) on our already poor road infrastructure.
- The fact that Dalton sits on a fault line and is the "earthquake capital of NSW" – I'm completely amazed that such a plant would even be considered for an earthquake zone – we currently have several quakes each month – and some large quakes have occurred over the past 50 years. Most houses have evidence of this activity – cracked windows and cracked brickwork. Even though I am no expert, I would see that as a huge problem for a large plant installation.
– what would be the impact of big quake on a large power installation?
- The fact that Dalton region is home to some endangered species, recently identified in our fragile creek environment, ie the southern pigmy perch, and the golden bell frog.
- The fact that Dalton sits in a valley and is prone to fog on most autumn/winter mornings – a natural enhancement to the potential build up of nox fumes generated by such a plant, giving our environment a smog;
- The fact that the gas pipeline in our region, cited as one of the reasons AGL chose this site, will be decommissioned in 2018, requiring the power station to stockpile and truck in large amounts of LPG/LEG whatever will be required, another contribution to a traffic problem, and also making Dalton a potential target for any terrorist activity;
- The site chosen for this power station has significant indigenous cultural heritage which has not been fully explored yet.

I was present at AGL's "meet the people" exercise in Dalton in the past week, and feel a huge level of distrust of this company, as they did not provide any answers to people's questions on the night. AGL's spokespersons preferring to quote a great deal of "spin", but no factual information

- Whether the construction of the power station would go ahead,
- about what the power station was to be used for,
- how often it would be switched on,
- telling us that it only had a 15 year lifespan
- that some collateral damage ie the community of Dalton was to be expected

In summary, **I register my strongest possible protest** as a concerned tax-paying citizen of some 50 years, **against** AGL's request for an extension "to consider their options under the current legislation".

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