

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: Dalton Power Project MOD 1, approved by the PAC under Part 3A of the Environmental Assessment and Planning Act 1979, since repealed.

I'm opposed to an extension of time for the following reasons:

1. AGL seeks to modify the project approval to extend the lapse date for a further two years to enable "AGL to review the DPP in line with current technology and energy market circumstances".
  - Allowing AGL to review the DPP to assess "current/new technology" would be a shift away from the original approved proposal that clearly stated the technology to be used. An action to introduce different technology, including battery storage and more advanced turbines could substantially change the impact on the community and the environment than was stated in AGL's original submission.
  - Consideration of "current/new technology" should only be considered via a new DPP application process and under the legislation and rules with which new proposals are considered, not the legislation (now repealed) under which the original project proposal was approved.
2. In the AGL request to extend the lapse date it is stated that "In October 2012 AGL announced the suspension of construction of the DPP due to difficult market conditions - including lower demand for electricity".
  - AGL has had five years within which to make a decision to start building the power plant and it has chosen not to in this time. They have had five years to continually assess and consider changing market conditions.
  - I contend AGL is seeking an extension on the basis that things "could" change from this point on, rather than what changes have occurred in the last five years. AGL is wanting an each way bet on the future, keeping a dark cloud hanging over our community.
3. AGL seeks to modify the project approval to extend the lapse date for a further two years to enable consultation with the local community, landholders and other stakeholders. AGL claims it wants to be a "trusted and respected member of the communities in which it operates". It claims it wants to engage beyond baseline regulatory requirements.

I make the following points:

- AGL has shown no commitment to the community in the last five years. AGL is a landowner here yet it has contributed nothing to the Dalton community since becoming a landowner here.

- There are new environmental concerns. 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 generated by the plant is a huge issue.
  - AGL has shown complete disregard for its obligation to care for the land it owns. 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.
4. AGL contend that "the additional time will enable AGL to recommence engagement with the local community". Further, "recommencement of community and stakeholder engagement will provide maximum transparency for the local community". That routine use of Community Consultation Committees during development and construction will ensure effective communication.
- It is apparent that, there having been no consultation in the past five years, so called re-engagement to provide maximum transparency is nothing more than rhetoric.
  - How can something that has never commenced be recommenced?
5. AGL contend that extending the lapse date would not change the positive socio-economic benefits of the DPP. It talks of 5-10 long term jobs.
- 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.

It potentially has significant financial economic and environmental impacts on them that they did not foresee or were warned about. If the DPP is built those 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. Conversely, I understand that the plant will be operated remotely, not by locals.
- People come here to experience a peaceful quiet country village. They will not come here, or stay, if the village is overshadowed by a power plant spewing toxins into our air, our waterways and our country side. If we lose our reputation as a place of

peaceful tranquility then we will lose the people who want to live here and the people who want to visit. If we lose our people and our tourists then we lose our businesses, our jobs and our school. We will lose our community. We lose far more than 5-10 (remote) jobs that probably won't even end up being in the area anyway.

- Further, the construction of the plant, if it proceeds, will be undertaken by Leighton's. I doubt the veracity of the AGL claim that construction will provide local jobs. Construction companies such as these bring construction crews in from outside the area, and set up self-sufficient camps. Local business hardly ever benefits in these situations and if it does, the gain is only ever short-term.