

12 April 2017

NSW Government
Planning & Environment
Major Projects
Dalton Power Project

Dear Sir / Madam

SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION – DALTON POWER PROJECT (DPP)

OBJECTION TO AGL'S APPLICATION TO EXTEND LAPSE DATE BY 2 YEARS

Further to my submission dated 7 April 2017, I am writing a supplementary submission to you due to new information which has only recently become available as AGL has absolutely failed to keep the communities of Dalton and Gunning informed over the last 4.5 years about the Dalton Power Project (DPP).

I am the owner of Lot 37 Brown Street (also known as Lot 37 Loop Road) Dalton (Lot 37 DP754111). My property is 3 kilometres from the DPP and has direct line of sight of it when looking towards the north. I am significantly affected detrimentally by AGL's extension to extend the lapse date of their approval. This is because I purchased my property one year ago with no knowledge of AGL's DPP as AGL failed to keep the community informed of this matter over the last 4.5 years. I have also suspended the construction of my home due the loss in value in my property directly caused by AGL.

I continue to object to AGL's application to extend the lapse date of the Dalton Power Project (DPP) and note the following additional points.

The community demographics are very different now - many new residents have moved into Dalton and Gunning since 2011

I, like many new property owners in Dalton, purchased my property with no prior knowledge of the DPP. You only need to drive through the main streets of Dalton and view all the new homes that have recently been built or are in the process of being built including the new subdivision. Many of us did not contribute to the consultation process way back in 2011 /12. This was a very long time ago for planning purposes. The community of Dalton and Gunning have moved on especially after AGL's public statement in October 2012 that they were suspending all work on the DPP. As a result the community has moved on and was growing with many new residents and land owners in the process of building. This is all at risk now.

AGL has failed to keep the community informed

At the AGL Community meeting on 5 April 2017 with Dalton and Gunning residents, Tony Chappell from AGL apologised for AGL going quiet after AGL had publically suspended all work on the DPP five years ago in October 2012. He said that this was wrong. It is very clear

to me that the community had moved on and many new residents had moved in and invested heavily in the town. When I decided to buy my property 1 year ago I went to extraordinary lengths to understand the town. I used a local conveyancer to represent me who did extensive searches but no references to the DPP appeared. I drove every street within 15 kilometres of Dalton and saw no references to the DPP. I drove up Walsh's road many times (my street is the adjacent Loop Road) all the way to the dead end which I now understand are the gates to AGL's property. Again no references to the DPP were found. AGL has absolutely failed in its very simple responsibility to keep the community informed. A very simple sign at the gate would have been appreciated.

Tony Chappell asked the community to judge AGL on their future actions, however the prior experience with AGL has been a complete failure and disregard for the communities of Dalton and Gunning with no communication from AGL in 4.5 years. Further, AGL are continuing to ambush the community as they did in 2012. Their plans to extend the approval have been raised at the 11th hour and all of the communities of Dalton and Gunning heard about it only via word of mouth. No contact from AGL. They tried to sneak it through. This is not consultation.

AGL continue to ambush the residents of Dalton and Gunning with their 11th hour requests which are unilaterally in their favour. They had disappeared for 4.5 years – no presence at all in the community. The communities of Dalton and Gunning were thriving with many new residents and now AGL has created new uncertainty, fear and distress.

AGL does not have a plan

At the community meeting held on 5 April 2017 and at the Upper Lachlan Council Extraordinary meeting held on 10 April 2017, AGL's Tony Chappell could not provide a plan on what AGL want to do. They want more time to think about their options and have raised the concept of a MOD2. They can't tell us what MOD2 is. Why not? This is unbelievable. They have had 5 long years. We don't have more time. We want to move on. I have suspended the construction of my home and I am in limbo. Many other residents of Dalton face this fear and uncertainty.

AGL has not signed off internally on the power station

At the meeting on 10 April 2017 Tony Chappell was questioned by the councillors on why AGL had not started construction after 5 years. He said that "AGL doesn't commence projects until they make a final investment decision". I find it totally disrespectful to the honest and hardworking communities of Dalton and Gunning that AGL would put the community through so much pain, heartache and stress without having an internally approved project. They are gambling on what will happen in the future at the expense of the community. They are seeking a 2 year extension for the DPP even though they do not have internal approval to build it.

AGL continue to lie to the community

I sincerely hope you were able to listen to the full webcast of the AGL community meeting on 5 April 2017 so you could hear firsthand all the lies that Tony Chappell told the hardworking and honest people of Dalton and Gunning.

AGL had the nerve to tell the 200 strong crowd at the meeting that in their experience property values will not drop. How can they spruiker such lies? Michael Gray from Yass Real Estate shot that down with actual facts. I have already been told by local real estate agents that my property is not sellable now. It's a dead loss. \$390,000 down the drain and huge financial and emotional distress to me and my family (ie my wife and two young daughters 8 and 11 years of age). To compound matters, AGL have not made any statements about compensating the community for this loss.

When you visit Dalton you will not come across any Mercedes or Rolexes. These are simple people and their primary asset is their home on their farm which they have worked a life time to call their own. How can AGL treat us with such financial neglect and disrespect?

AGL told the community that the power plant will create jobs for the community. This is absolute rubbish. The plant can be run remotely from any part of the globe and our expectation is that it will ultimately be operated remotely from Victoria.

I publically informed Tony Chappell at the community meeting that I have just suspended the construction of my home at huge expense. I asked him what I should do now. He arrogantly shrugged off the question and did not offer any response. Total disregard for the community and our questions. AGL calls this consultation. Importantly, AGL has made no statements about compensating us for the loss in value of our properties. They arrogantly want us to believe that we will not suffer any decline in the value of our properties.

Conclusion

I am strongly of the view that AGL should not be permitted to unilaterally extend the lapse date of the DPP as there are important new factors that need to be considered.

Hence, any further consideration of this project by AGL should only be addressed via a new application process and under the legislation and rules with which new proposals are considered, not questionable and anachronistic legislation (now repealed) under which the original project proposal was approved.

Yours sincerely

Mr Hardas
Lot 37 Brown Street
(also known as Lot 37 Loop Road)
(Lot 37 DP754111)
DALTON NSW 2581