

My name is Maryanne Johnstone. My husband, John Edwards and I reside at 343 Walsh's Road, Dalton, immediately adjacent to the site of the proposed AGL power plant at Dalton. I object to the application made by AGL for a two year extension of the lapsing date of the approval given to them for the construction of the Dalton power plant from July 19th, 2017 to July 19th, 2019.

We bought our property in September, 2009. At the conclusion of our inspection visit, the selling agent mentioned that AGL had bought the place across the road, so before we exchanged contracts we and our solicitor tried to find out what plans AGL had for the site. We were unable to find any information; even the local council was unaware of any proposed development of the site, and an AGL spokesperson merely said that AGL owned numerous parcels of land across NSW and had no particular plans for this one. So we went ahead with the purchase, intending to live on the farm and work it when we finished paid employment.

In 2012 we were informed by a neighbour that AGL had submitted for approval a plan to build a gas-fired peaking power plant for \$1.5 billion. We had received no direct communication from AGL about their plans despite being one of its closest neighbours. At the time we were still residing and working in Bathurst, but as ratepayers our postal address was easily accessible to AGL. The only contact we had with the company was when we arranged for a meeting with their spokesman.

At this stage our plans to move to Dalton within the next two years were thrown into total confusion. We were unsure whether to continue with our plans or try to sell our farm. We had been attending numerous courses, workshops and field days like ProGrazed, run by Local Land Services and Landcare in preparation for setting up a farm which we hoped would fund our retirement from paid employment. And we had begun fencing and planting native vegetation and joined local Jerrawa Creek Landcare. So we waited for the outcome of AGL's development application.

When AGL indefinitely postponed their decision to proceed because in part the uptake of rooftop solar panels and other renewable energy sources, we gladly put in process our plans to move permanently to Dalton, close to our children and grandchildren in Canberra and Goulburn. But given the postponement, not withdrawal of the Dalton Power project by AGL, we decided not to build a permanent dwelling until the time for the project's commencement had elapsed, not being willing to commit to any greater expenditure in such a climate of uncertainty.

We moved permanently to our farm in October, 2014. Since then we have invested our retirement benefits, savings and a significant proportion of our superannuation into our farm. We now have a herd of fifty one breeding cows and, at the moment, twenty nine weaner calves. We've fenced off approximately two kilometres of the Jerrawa Creek on both sides and put in forty three 20 x 20 metres vegetation clusters across the property. Our accommodation has remained a rudimentary shed. However, with the lapse date of the project rapidly approaching and AGL having made no move to begin work, we had begun to plan to build our permanent, comfortable home. Now our lives have been placed in abeyance once again and our future lies in the hands of AGL once more.

If the project goes ahead, the impact of the noxious particulate matter and extreme noise pollution on our business and lives would be immense. The value of our property would be severely reduced, leaving us with a stranded asset because it would be impossible to find a buyer willing to pay a reasonable price. Our income would be much diminished, our circumstances much straitened.

Given the absolute priority for the world to move away from fossil fuels (gas is neither a clean nor renewable energy source) I absolutely object to the construction of the Dalton Power Station. And given the environment of uncertainty that we have endured since 2012 and the cavalier manner in which AGL has treated the community, I strenuously object to AGL's application for an extension of the lapsing date of approval for a further two years. AGL has proved to be an untrustworthy corporate citizen in their treatment of and dealings with the local community and do not deserve the granting of an extension of their original development application.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns and objections,

Maryanne Johnstone.