

12th April 2017

Dalton Power Project MOD1

Assessment Type: Part3AMod

Project Type: Transport, Energy, Water & Telecommunications > Electricity Generation

Application Number: MP 10_0035 MOD 1

Exhibition Start: 16/03/2017

Exhibition End: 13/04/2017

Post Code: 2560 (This is the Incorrect Post Code, should be 2581)

To whom it may concern,

I object to AGL's application to extend the lapsing date of the approval for the Dalton Power Project by 2 years.

There are many issues which cause me to object, but one in particular has concerned me since the original application. It has been almost 5 years since then and still the question remains unanswered.

My concern relates to the effect on the surrounding areas from the construction and transport to the site of the 4 to 6 gas turbines specified by AGL. I do not believe this has ever been adequately addressed.

AGL has provided the Upper Lachlan Shire with a Traffic Management Plan.

It does not state in this plan the weight, length and height of the equipment to be transported, or the types of vehicles required. It also does not address the environmental effects the transport will have on the roads to be used.

The environmental reports submitted by AGL concentrate on the site itself. They do not take in to account the impact of the construction on the access ways to the site from the Hume Hwy some 10km away.

I have done my own research into sizes and weights. The turbines specified by AGL for use at the Dalton Power Plant are the GE 9F.07 series. These are highly specialised machinery that cannot be constructed onsite and must be transported to the site.

According to the specifications, (which can be found here <http://www.powerengineeringint.com/content/dam/pei/print-articles/2013/04/gas-steam-specs.pdf>) each turbine is 35m long, 15m wide, and 8m high. They weigh 1250 tonnes.

See here a video of a similar turbine in transport: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=b1aOSo3i-sU>

The two roads to Dalton that may be used to transport the turbines are Dalton Rd and Jerrawa Rd. These roads currently service the town of Dalton, but also several mines and quarries, and many agricultural uses.

There is regular use of Dalton road by B doubles at full capacity weighing a maximums of 50 tonnes, 19m in length and 4.1m in height. There are often up to 50 truck movements a day. This is about the maximum use most rural roads are built to take.

Contrast this with the length, width and weight in the enormous gas turbine, and there are significant issues with transport along any NSW road.

However, the issue I feel most strongly about is the loss of a wildlife corridor which has been in place since white settlement.

The Dalton Road has followed much the same route since the mid 1800's and as a result the trees have been allowed to flourish. Some will predate white settlement. These trees are regularly trimmed to accommodate the current truck movements, but they are at a width that does not require their removal. As I have stated previously, large mining and agricultural vehicles regularly use the road without issue.

The roadside trees form a 10km wildlife corridor which stretches from the town of Dalton to Gunning. There is a similar stretch of road along Jerrawa Rd. The importance of wildlife corridors to the biodiversity of an area is essential, as they link remnant vegetation areas together. Landowners have worked hard over the last 30yrs to plant trees and encourage wildlife corridors on their own farms. They need the roadside trees to form links between areas of vegetation. They have learned how valuable these areas can be providing shelter for stock from wind and harbouring pollinators. For further information in the importance of road side trees, see: 'Linear strips of roadside and fence line vegetation form important links in the landscape'
<http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/biodiversity/biodiversity-conservation/wildlife-corridors/what-are-wildlife-corridors>

If AGL's project is to go ahead, to my educated estimate, most of the roadside trees would be removed completely, as they do not meet either the width or the height required for the turbines to pass. Trees on even slight turns are particularly at risk. The weight of the turbines requires front and rear support, taking the total lengths of the required convoy to over 70m long.

In the 10 or so trees that line the 50m stretch of road adjacent to my property there are hundreds of inhabitants, including 3 different species of possum, at least 20 species of birds, native bee hives, bats, lizards etc etc etc. The branches of these majestic trees form a canopy above the road, giving safe crossing to the ringtail, brush tail, and squirrel glider possums that live there. (Please refer to the photos at the end of this document).

I cannot imagine the countless wildlife that will be killed in the destruction to along the whole 10km of the Dalton Rd, and the ongoing problems caused to wildlife, stock animals and the landscape, simply to create a path for these gigantic turbines.

The following statement in the TMP implies that AGL understand changes must be made to the road: 'This road has some large trees within the clear zone. The terrain is undulating and will require careful review for larger over dimensional deliveries, this will be covered in the over size and over mass loads TMP'.

This additional TMP, which should also include the environmental effects of the changes, should have been done prior to the initial application, so that the full implications of the project could be accurately measured. As it stands, AGL has only estimated the damage caused. I fear there has been a gross underestimate.

To date, AGL have never provided a comprehensive over size and over mass transport management plan for the transport of the turbines. They have had 5 years to work on this, and yet they still have not produced one.

I have been told by the AGL representative, Tony Chappel, that the life cycle of this power plant could be as low as 15 years.

It breaks my heart, as it will take another 200 years to get back what we will lose if this plant goes ahead.

Yours sincerely,
Karina Smith
4 Dalton Rd
Dalton NSW 2581

Links to references:

'Linear strips of roadside and fence line vegetation form important links in the landscape'
<http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/biodiversity/biodiversity-conservation/wildlife-corridors/what-are-wildlife-corridors>

Specification for gas turbines

<http://www.powerengineeringint.com/content/dam/pei/print-articles/2013/04/gas-steam-specs.pdf>

Transport of a 9HA turbine

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=b1aOSo3i-sU>

Photos: At 4 Dalton Rd looking South,

and looking North.

