

To the NSW Department of Planning,

Submission against AGL's Dalton Gas Power Plant Proposal,

My name is Jacqui Noske and alongside my family we brought our property '*Kildare Park Olive Farm*' in Dalton 3 years ago. We oppose AGL's Dalton proposal for the below reasons:

- 1) Disclosure. At the time of purchase and at no time since then have we ever been given any knowledge that such a significant proposal such as the one made by AGL was in place. Furthermore we have since then extended our property investment only 1 week prior to learning about AGL's plans to extend their licence whilst at the petrol station in Gunning! We have invested large sums of money, as well as dedicated 3 years of hard work into our venture and the creation of *Kildare Park Olive Farm* and we feel we have been cheated, lied to and hang out to dry by AGL and let down by our Government!
- 2) Food Security. We currently have 7 organic orchards that span over approximately 20 acres of our property, with plans to expand dramatically in the near future. We have over 2000 trees, consisting largely of apple, olive, cherry and plum trees, however we have begun to increase our diversity to include; hundreds of fruit, nut and native trees species, as well as innumerable perennial and annual fruits, berries, vegetables, medicinal and herbal plant. We strive for diversity and include as many cultivars of each variety as possible. All the plant and trees we select are old and rare heritage breeds which we hope will become one of the most diverse collections of food security in Australia. We hope to rekindle peoples love affair with real foods that are not only so vitally important to our health but also the health of the environment in the face of the realities of climate change. However all this is hanging on a string as AGL continues to blow a hurricane through our lives without any care or concern.
- 3) People before Profit. We acknowledge that the success and strength of Australia lies with supporting rural communities to which we have committed to playing our part in. Our cities are overcrowded and alarmingly we are seeing for the first time in history more people living in cities than rural areas. This can be attributed to the lack of government support and investment into our rural communities, the Dalton proposal is a classic example of the lack of Governmental support. This imbalance and disproportion of population placement has large, far-reaching consequences on living standards, mental and physical health, as well as an overwhelming pressure on infrastructure, energy and food security as we are already seeing across the globe. This is making us more dependent on resources that have already been pushed beyond their limits. It is about time our Government begins to realise the importance that small rural communities play in bringing back this balance, as well as their role in bringing Australia into a cleaner, greener and more self sufficient future. If big businesses continue to step over our small communities, we will continue to see a decline in rural Australia which will only increase Australia's dependence abroad.
- 4) Be a part of the solution not the problem. *Kildare Park Olive Farm* is a family run, off grid, biodynamic Mixed farm. We aim to teach people how to live more sustainably, to reconnect people to their food and to use our farm in the future as living classrooms to showcase and educate the array of options, possibilities and diverse systems that can be implemented in any situation and on any scale. The interest in what we are doing is overwhelming and we are finding people are very engaged and eager to learn what we are doing. We have people from all walks of life and across the globe enquiring and seeking our help, only affirming we are on the right path. We need to be encouraging more people to be switching to these independent and sustainable practices, offering much needed relief to an ever draining system.
- 5) Moving away from the dependence of chemicals. We do not use any chemicals on our property and we do our utmost to provide the majority of our own needs by incorporating both clever well thought design, and a careful selection of animals and wildlife. Creating a healthy ecosystem by mimicking nature, builds a strong, eco friendly, highly productive and nutrient dense food system. To have a destructive gas power plant of the proposed size and nature of the one proposed for Dalton will undoubtedly undo all our hard work, as well as destroy the delicate eco system of the area. The Dalton area consists of a wide array of hills and mountains that all play an important role in the water systems within the area. The run-off from this plant will have far and wide reaching impacts to those that run down from this site, our property included. Our system design relies heavily on our natural water

systems, our geographic position means that we receive large amounts of runoff from neighbouring properties, as we are downstream from this proposal, we fear the water contamination will have a detrimental impact on the animals, wildlife and food systems we are attempting to build and restore. It does not make sense to establish such a reckless infrastructure so close to homes and farming lands. Furthermore in today's era and in the plight of the current problems we are facing, it makes no sense to build it at all, as the advancements in safer, cleaner options are numerous.

- 6) To survive and thrive, we must change and adapt. To further our diversity and strength during the adverse weather we are facing, we have also incorporated multiple design systems, each unique in their own right. It is important we stop looking towards large scale, energy dependant and unstable monoculture systems to feed ourselves. Rather we need to give more weight to diverse, multi system farming as they are stronger, less reliant on outside factors and in essence self sustaining. Should we be allowed continue our work, we will be the largest permaculture orchard in the southern hemisphere that we are aware of. It is important that we are allowed to continue our work so that we can have a working model that can be observed, studied and documented as the way of the future in farming. This is especially critical in a country as dry and harsh as ours. The importance of the work we are undertaking cannot be understated and the ability for this model to feed the local and wider community is real. However if AGL is allowed to follow through with their proposal, we might not have a community to feed.
- 7) Animal Conservation and Preservation. Our Conservation and Preservation work is carried out on two parts; Firstly we incorporate old heritage breeds of livestock animals on our farm in both our breeding programs, as well as showing people that these breeds less known to the general public can be just as beneficial, if not more beneficial than their unethical and instable commercially bred counterparts. We play a significant role within our poultry and waterfowl program known as *Eggsquisite Poultry*. This program is an essential element to our farm operations and we are mindful to select rare and endangered poultry and waterfowl breeds as part of our future promotion and preservation efforts. Not only are they heavily used as utility strains which is vital to its longevity and prosperity, the majority of people can at the very least have the space and ability to accommodate a few birds into their system.

Secondly, wildlife conservation is also of great importance to us, and as we begin to replant and repair our damaged and over grazed land, we have also began the work of encouraging and recording the local plant and animals species to monitor our impact and the success of our system designs. We hope over the decades to come that we will be able to provide a vast collection of rare and endangered native flora and fauna recovering and flourishing within our site. At current we have found an array of endangered and extinct species and I believe this work will be deeply compromised should the AGL proposal be allowed to continue.

- 8) Our lives have been put on hold. This proposal effects us in many other ways, some of which have been listed below;
  - Our plans to build a new house.
  - Major earthworks that include underground mini orchard and nursery facilities, water catchments, swale and dam construction and land regeneration.
  - We were also in the preparation stages for our truffle plantation.
  - Large scale fencing and planting.

However all these projects have consequently been now brought to a halt as we await the outcome of a project that shouldn't of been on the table in the first place.

- 9) Tourism. We had also planned, prior to the hearing of AGLs proposal, to open our gates finally to the public this year, 1st of December, as a 'Pick Yourself' and as a local supplier of fresh produce. We have multi tour buses already organised and hope to extend and build our services with each and consecutive year. This will bring valuable tourism to Dalton and Gunning and contribute to strengthening these communities. Surely the good that we can provide to the direct and wider community and the positive effects and impacts it can have is more valuable than the outdated, disliked and environmentally destructive backward energy proposal that has been placed on the table by AGL.

In conclusion, as our weather patterns are becoming increasingly unpredictable and erratic, change is urgently needed if we stand a chance. When will we learn that we cannot fight nature, we must now lower our arms and find ways to work with and alongside it. Please help us with our work for a better, stronger Country by standing up for the little people that this Country was built on. I urge you to please be a part of something greater than yourself, something that can spread hope and positive change into hundreds of thousands of lives, and something that can be left as a legacy long after you have left power. That is what true leadership is about, we have a great and unique Country, please do not sell it and us out, no price will ever be high enough.

Kind Regards,

Jacqui Noske on behalf of all those invested into the *Kildare Park Olive Farm* project.