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Submission by Cassie Dowling, Dalton

4/4/2017

I write this submission opposing AGL's extension of time for commencement of the proposed Dalton gas power plant.

I am 17 yrs. of age and I am writing this submission as I am concerned about the way the proposed gas plant will affect our small community. Five years ago I was 12 yrs. of age and I saw my family and I attending the meeting for the last proposed gas plant to be built. Now that I am older I have a stronger view on the way this proposed gas plant will affect me, my family and our community.

This proposed gas plant has already affected the community as they are fearful and concerned about what will happen if the proposed gas plant goes ahead. It has also affected my family as we have four generations me, my mum, my grandma and great grandma that have lived here for a long time in this community, also family farms that will be affected by their value of the land going down. Furthermore it has affected me by thinking of how Dalton, my community will be affected by the health of everyone by the emissions and noise.

Also about a year ago my friend and I discovered the Southern Pygmy Perch in the Oolong creek that runs into the Jerrawa an then the Lachlan. This is where we go down to play and skip rocks in the creek. One day my friend and I went down to the creek in search for mosquito fish however caught our eyes on a much more interesting fish. It was quite a battle to catch this fish but as determined that I was I caught it. My friend and I took it back to her mum and by searching pictures on the internet found it were identical to the much endangered Southern Pygmy Perch. Later pictures were sent off to have an official identification if it was the Southern Pygmy Perch and found to be it was. This was great find in the community and excited many people that we have such a threatened species in our communal environment in Dalton.

In November last year there was a day where people from the community went down to the Oolong creek and witnessed the official opening for the signs to show information on the Southern Pygmy Perch and tells us it is present in this area. My friend and I were privileged to officially reveal the sign on that day.

However now the proposed gas plant has become a very big concern to me as the much endangered Southern Pygmy Perch will be affected by the emissions from the proposed gas plant. As a threatened species already I would hate to see it be even more threatened by this proposed gas plant as it has become a great icon to the Dalton community.

Now that I fully understand the effects of the proposed gas plant I will stand with my community and we will do as much as we can to stop this proposed gas plant going ahead.

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