



7 February 2020

Planning Services
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Department of Planning
Received
14 FEB 2020
Scanning Room

Attention: Dear Sir/Madam

SSD-10313 – Submission – Western Sydney Green Gas Project

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Western Sydney Green Gas Project - Environmental Impact Statement. The Environment section of Blacktown City Council has reviewed the relevant documents and provided some points to consider. Ultimately, we support the project and make no objections to the proposal.

The power to gas (P2G) facility by Jemena proposes to transform renewable electrical energy into a combustible gas, hydrogen, which is either injected at up to 2% by volume into the Sydney secondary gas distribution network, supplied to a micro turbine to generate electricity for export back to the grid, or potentially supplied to an adjacent hydrogen refuelling station (HRS) for bus refuelling.

We understand the proposal is a trial, and there are hopes to pave the way for the storage of excess renewable energy in the form of hydrogen gas. The storage of excess renewable energy is an issue of growing importance.

Blacktown City Council is committed to and supportive of cleaner energy initiatives. We are increasingly improving our energy efficiency and aim to transition to renewable energy. We are committed to achieving net-zero emissions from the electricity, fuel and gas we use in our operations by 2030. We also endeavour to work with our community to achieve the NSW target of net zero emissions by 2050.

Of particular interest to Council is the potential for a hydrogen refuelling station (HRS). We envisage that this potential component of the project would be of benefit to Council as a source of renewable energy for our fleet. We eagerly await further news on the progress of this component of the project.

We have reviewed the following documents:

- Eco Logical Australia 2019, *Western Sydney Green Gas Project - Environmental Impact Statement*. Prepared for Jemena Gas Networks (NSW) Limited'.
- Marshal Day Acoustics, *Western Sydney Green Gas Project Environmental Noise Assessment* (Rp 001 R01 20190608), dated 8 November 2019.
- Benbow Environmental, *Air Quality Assessment* (191211_AQIA_Rev4), dated

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November 2019

- GPA Engineering, *Preliminary Hazard Analysis* (18667-REP-017), dated October 2019.

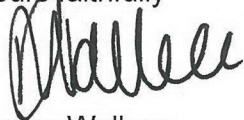
From this review, we note that:

- the noise assessment indicated the need for some noise mitigation for the micro turbine unit and noise management during the construction phase
- there was a discrepancy regarding the length of time that the micro turbine is expected to emit nitrogen oxides while running on natural gas. The length of time will impact the emissions level. The EIS states that the micro turbine would only run on natural gas during the first 6 months of operation and modelling was not warranted as the predicted emissions were negligible. However, the Air Quality Assessment prepared by Benbow Environmental additionally notes the transition to 100% hydrogen will occur at approximately 1 year of operation.

In summary, we have no objections to the proposal and welcome this project as a move in a positive direction.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact Council's Senior Environmental Health Officer, Julia Thompson 9839 6295.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donna Wallace', written over the printed name.

Donna Wallace
Manager Environment