



Hunter Environment Lobby Inc.

PO Box 188
East Maitland NSW 2323
15/8/18

Bayswater Power Station Turbine Efficiency Upgrade

Hunter Environment Lobby (HEL) is a regional community-based environmental organization that has been active for well over twenty years on the issues of environmental degradation, species and habitat loss, the importance of biodiversity and the challenges of climate change.

HEL has particular interest in water management issues in the Hunter Region and has held positions on the Hunter River Management Committee during the development of the water sharing plan for the Hunter Regulated River Water Source.

HEL has also been selected by agencies to serve on the Hunter and Paterson Environmental Water Advisory Group as well as having served on the Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network Advisory Committee.

HEL has had a long interest in the environmental health of the Hunter River system and is of the opinion that water quality is a significant issue for river health in the Hunter Region.

One of the single biggest users of Hunter water is Bayswater Power Station – indeed if water restrictions continue to cut deeper because of this millennial drought, we could see power outtages in the Hunter. HEL has always advocated that renewables must be fast tracked to ensure reliable power output for NSW industry and communities.

We note that there is to be an upgrade of turbine efficiency at Bayswater and ask that the generator regulator ensure that there is pollution control for the major sources of pollutants, ie; sulphur dioxide SO₂; nitrous oxides NO₂ and fine particle emissions, PM_{2.5}.

We note that Bayswater is the single largest emitter of these pollutants in the Hunter region – the NSW Dept of Health has in the past said that Hunter communities are at their limit of pollution, already community members are dying years earlier than average here in the Hunter.

Indeed health guidelines are regularly exceeded here in the Hunter – HEL has continued to say, this must stop – knowledge is responsibility – the NSW Dept of Health has warned many times that increasing emissions will increase early deaths.

HEL is surprised that there is not a requirement to install world's best practice pollution control mechanisms – we must improve the Hunter's air quality – not deliberately make it worse?

We find it reprehensible that community groups were not made aware that this issue was on exhibition – so much for transparency?

We trust that this submission will be acted on in the interests of good health of our Hunter communities.

Yours in trust,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jan Davis', is positioned above the typed name.

Jan Davis
President Hunter Environment Lobby Inc.