

I am writing to oppose the Kurri Kurri power station because it makes no economic sense and further perpetuates a dangerous and unsafe climate for the Australian people. I am mother of 2 children, I am scared for their future, we are out of time with climate change, we need to do everything in our power to mitigate certain catastrophic collapse of our planet. But rather than decisive positive action, we are going even further backwards with reducing our carbon emissions.

We call ourselves the lucky country, and we are, we have so much land, air and sun available to us to produce environmentally safe and efficient energy production, why would you look to build new gas plants that **makes no environmental or economic sense. The project is incompatible with NSW Government's legal and moral obligations and its ability to meet its own emission targets.** Recently we have seen in the Sharma v Minister for Environment (May 29, 2021) case that it has established a new duty of care to protect young people from foreseeable future climate change harms and a clear link between fossil fuel projects and those harms (source: <https://www.judgments.fedcourt.gov.au/judgments/Judgments/fca/single/2021/2021fca0560>) , clearly the proposed Kurri Kurri power station contravenes this very ruling. It makes no sense!

Further to this under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act), the NSW Government has an obligation to protect matters of national significance and world heritage (Source: <https://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/about>, <https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/pages/43badfb2-b8be-4a10-a5b9-feab2d38a5d2/files/nsw-bilateral-agreement-assessment-2015.pdf>) **but we cannot protect our environment without mitigating climate change.** "The impacts of unrestrained warming to 3°C and more on Australia's unique flora and fauna will be severe. Failure to meet the Paris Agreement targets will have serious implications for human health and the prosperity of Australia. Encouraging the international community to act effectively on climate change is therefore very much in Australia's national interest." - Australian Academy of Science (March 2021), The Risks to Australia of a 3C Warmer World. (Source: <https://www.science.org.au/files/userfiles/support/reports-and-plans/2021/risks-australia-three-deg-warmer-world-report.pdf>) The site currently has no gas connection and will run on diesel for the first few years, even more damaging for the environment. Again, where is the duty of care for our children with the decision to build this power station, this is not taking their health and lives into consideration.

The economic argument just doesn't stack up, set to cost \$610 million (likely to cost 30-50% more' – Tom Parry AFR 24 May 2021), set to run 2% of the time (which equated to 1 week) and only creating 10 ongoing jobs, how do those sums add up to benefit the Australian Taxpayers? Not even a business case that has been made public to support or substantiate that significant investment, why? I'm not sure what protocols exist in government, but for an investment of that size in business it wouldn't have made it past the idea stage, with negative return to shareholders, in this care the Australian public and the planet. Plus to build a power station that is already obsolete by the time it is built with energy switching to hydrogen. Hydrogen is not sustainable. Using gas to create electricity is a really expensive way to do it and won't drive down prices for consumers. There are an abundance of cheaper alternatives flooding the market and putting more gas into the energy market to support renewables is questionable when gas is an "expensive power". Even Matt Kean, NSW Energy & Environment Minister has stated "Using gas to create electricity is a really expensive way to do it. If you're interested in driving down electricity prices, then you'd be mad to use gas." (source: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-04-12/four-corners-gas-plan-pressured-experts/100055730>). Even energy industry experts believe the project is unnecessary and will not reduce costs. The Australian energy board chair says gas-fired power plant in Hunter Valley 'doesn't stack up'. *"Nobody is going to build it from the private sector because it doesn't stack up. Because it's expensive power, it's hard to see it makes commercial sense."* Kerry Schott, Chair, Australian Energy Security Board (Source:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/apr/30/australian-energy-board-chair-says-gas-fired-power-plant-in-hunter-valley-doesnt-stack-up>).

What makes this proposal even more unforgiveable is the immediate danger that the air pollution from the Kurri Kurri Power Station will have on the health and wellbeing of the local population. The station will emit nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, particulate matter, sulphur oxides, hydrocarbons and other volatile organic compounds, according to Snowy Hydro's [Environmental Impact Statement](#), Table 15.1: Proposal – Air Emissions Limits. The Singleton doctor Bob Vickers, a member of Doctors for the Environment, said the new gas plant would add air pollution in mining, refining, transporting and combusting the gas."

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/morrison-government-bankrolls-600m-hunter-valley-gas-plant-20210519-p57t2u.html> .The project will adversely impact air quality and consequently the health and wellbeing of local families and the Hunter community. Due to its history of coal mining and coal-fired power stations, air quality in the Hunter region is notoriously bad, and is subject to industry-specific regulations, rather than the National Ambient Air Quality Standards that apply elsewhere in Australia. Surely another case and example of failing to do your due diligence and duty of care for these effected communities. The proposal contradicts the [NSW Clean Air Strategy 2021-30](#), which promises to deliver "Clean Energy for Clean Air" by supporting "private sector investment in new clean energy generation, under the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap, to replace ageing fossil fuel-powered generators as they retire in coming decades."

When there are safer and more economic alternatives this madness has to stop, this project must not go ahead. Please reconsider, please refrain from making any more of these bogus projects that clearly don't have the Australian peoples and its environment's best interest at the heart of them. We the Australian people are ready, we are wanting to move to cleaner, safer and more economic energy solutions, why are you holding us back? why are we so far behind the rest of the world? why can our leaders not see it?