

Caroline McDaid
30 Junction St
Gladesville
2111
3 June 2021

Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Power Station)

Dear Sir/Madam

I'd wish to lodge my strong objection to the progression of the above project on the basis of several grounds.

Impact upon net zero targets

The NSW government has committed to a net zero target by 2050 (which I very much hope they will reach earlier). This project is in direct contravention to both this and the international Paris Climate targets which aim to keep global temperature rise below 1.5C. The International Energy Agency just last month advised that if there is any hope of meeting these targets no advanced economies should be investing in ANY oil, gas or coal projects. I'm very sure that we would consider ourselves an advanced economy which is course begs the question why we would knowingly proceed with this when it is such a morally questionable course of action. In fact, just last week our own courts in this country ruled that the minister for the environment has a duty of care to not act in a way that would cause future harm to younger people. There is simply no denying that proceeding with this project will contribute to global warming and negatively impact younger people. As a parent to two children, I strongly object to anything which will harm their future and that of other young people in our country.

Economic rationale

As a Chartered Accountant, I find it unfathomable and frankly infuriating that my taxes are to be used to fund such a grossly economically unviable project. Even Kerry Schott agrees that no one from the private sector would invest in these because it is commercially unviable and the Australian Energy Council has indicated that there is no projected shortfall in supply indicating that this might be needed. So why are we the taxpayer funding a project which is economically unviable and not even required based upon energy projections from experts?

Air Pollution Impact

The Hunter Region has long suffered from poorer air quality than our metropolitan hubs. We all know how we felt when we breathed in the terrible fumes from the bushfires for several weeks of last year and the impact upon our health. We are forcing the residents of the Hunter Region (predominantly young families) to endure 30 more years of increased CO₂, PM2.5 and PM10, NO_x and SO₂. Gas is not a clean energy and I am furious on behalf of these families impacted that their future generations will face ongoing risk of asthma and

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heart disease for the sake of a gas power plant that is commercially unviable, unnecessary and will negatively impact our ability to meet our climate commitments.

So in summary, I am strongly opposing a project which is immoral, economically unviable, unnecessary and harmful to health. In fact I am confused as to what rationale is being used to justify this project, if not political gain. But I will leave the politics to the politicians.

Please take my input into account in your decision making.

Sincerely

Caroline McDaid