

Nic Clyde  
8 June 2021  
Sydney

## **Submission: Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Power Station)**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on this Proposal.

I **OBJECT** to the Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Power Station).

I note in the EIS that on 16 December 2020 the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces declared that the Proposal is **critical State significant infrastructure (CSSI)** under Section 5.13 of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Further I note and that as such, the Proposal is considered by the Minister to be “essential for the State for economic, environmental or social reasons”.

I have read a great deal of analysis of this Proposal. None of it supports the assertion that this project is essential.

My submission simply quotes experts who have made comments about this Proposal as it has been developed. Other than a very small segment of the political class in Canberra who have an ideological commitment to gas, there do not appear to be any experts of note who support this Proposal:

### **Kerry Schott, Chair, Australian Energy Security Board**

*“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.”<sup>1</sup>*

### **Ross Garnaut, Professorial Research Fellow in Economics at the University of Melbourne**

*“waste of money” ... “anything else you do with the money would be more valuable than redundant capacity, we’ve got huge amounts of surplus gas generation in Australia... Putting more in just increases excess capacity ...”<sup>2</sup>*

### **Matt Kean, NSW Energy Minister**

*“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 ...*

*New South Wales energy policy is determined by engineers, experts and economists, not ideologues.”<sup>3</sup>*

### **AEMO**

*“The size of the forecast reliability gap is 154 MW.”<sup>4</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/apr/30/australian-energy-board-chair-says-gas-fired-power-plant-in-hunter-valley-doesnt-stack-up>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/we-re-burying-banknotes-ross-garnaut-rubbishes-government-s-600m-gas-plant-20210525-p57usa.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-04-12/four-corners-gas-plan-pressured-experts/100055730>

## **Tony Wood, energy program director with the Grattan Institute**

The Kurri Kurri plant is *“just not necessary”*. *“It’s not necessary for prices, it’s not necessary for reliability and it’s not necessary to bring down emissions”*.<sup>5</sup>

## **ON GAS MORE BROADLY**

### **International Energy Agency: Net Zero by 2050 Report**

*“Beyond projects already committed as of 2021, there are no new oil and gas fields approved for development in our pathway, and no new coal mines or mine extensions are required.”*<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> [https://aemo.com.au/-/media/files/electricity/nem/planning\\_and\\_forecasting/nem\\_esoo/2020/2020-electricity-statement-of-opportunities.pdf?la=en](https://aemo.com.au/-/media/files/electricity/nem/planning_and_forecasting/nem_esoo/2020/2020-electricity-statement-of-opportunities.pdf?la=en)

, pg 60

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/may/18/morrison-government-to-fund-600m-gas-fired-power-plant-in-nsw-hunter-region>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.iea.org/reports/net-zero-by-2050>, pg 21