

I live not far from Kurri Kurri and regard myself as part of the community. It is where I shop, go for a coffee and see my doctor. I have seen first hand the effect the lack of jobs has had on the local community. I object strongly to the building of a gas power plant as described in the EIS for the following reasons.

Not needed.

The 1000MW gap claimed is not even close to the real amount of power needed to fill the gap when Liddell closes. According to the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), the real gap is only 154MW. And, much more than that in new battery storage has already been announced! The Australian Energy Market Operator's 2020 Integrated System Plan shows that we can rapidly transition our national energy grid straight from coal to renewables without any new gas. There are adequate mechanisms in place to address grid reliability issues. For example existing gas power plants are currently underused, there is scope for much more demand management. If grid reliability were the aim then this money would be better spent on upgrading grid infrastructure.

Jobs

The site is already cleared, close to the freeway and close to Newcastle University and the port. It is an ideal site for niche manufacturing industries of the future which would provide much needed long term secure employment for the Kurri Kurri area. However noise levels and poor air quality from a gas power plant placed on site which will only employ 10 people will deter other enterprises and mean a lost employment opportunity for the area.

The AMWU has said "A gas-led recovery has been fully debunked as any kind of responsible solution. It denies working people a secure future. We need a manufacturing led recovery with workers in the Hunter Valley at the heart. "

Strong Pipeline Opposition

The gas for this power plant could come from Santos' proposed Narrabri coal seam gas project and be delivered via the proposed Hunter Gas Pipeline, which is slated to run across prime agricultural land from southern QLD to Newcastle in NSW via Narrabri, with a proposed offshoot to the Kurri Kurri site. Both the Narrabri Gas Project and the Hunter Gas Pipeline face overwhelming opposition from Traditional Owners and local farmers.

A misuse of public money bordering on criminally incompetent.

It's very poor use of public money and energy experts say it doesn't make any economic sense: For example, the Chair of Australia's Energy Security Board has said "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." And she has also said: a taxpayer-funded gas-fired power plant in the Hunter Valley makes little commercial sense given the abundance of cheaper alternatives flooding the market. Gas is not only dangerous and polluting, it is expensive. Gas-fired power cannot compete with clean renewable energy on price. Analysis has made clear that more gas in the electricity system will increase, not decrease, electricity prices. Replacing Liddell with renewable energy backed by batteries would be 17% cheaper than replacing Liddell with gas, while resulting in fewer emissions.

White elephant and stranded asset.

- The world is going in the opposite direction. Our courts have recognised we have a duty of care to future generations.

Sharma v Minister for Environment (May 29, 2021)

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.*

Court Judgment <https://www.judgments.fedcourt.gov.au/judgments/Judgments/fca/single/2021/2021fca056>

- It undermines NSW Government's Net Zero Plan

The NSW Government's Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020-2030 provides the foundations for reaching **net zero emissions by 2050** with a focus on reducing emissions by 35% by 2030 compared to 2005 levels

** early progress on emissions reductions and renewable energy helps NSW move towards its goal*

** the project's Environmental Impact Statement estimates it will emit 500,000 tonnes of greenhouse gasses per annum, equivalent to approx 0.4.% of NSW annual emissions, despite operating for the equivalent of a week per year.*

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/climate-change/net-zero-plan>

<https://majorprojects.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/prweb/PRRestService/mp/01/getContent?AttachRef=SSI-12590060%2120210427T001516.283%20GMT>

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Just the day before this project was announced The International Energy Agency said that there must be no new oil, gas or coal investments if we are to reach our Paris agreement targets. The world will not continue to sit back and watch Australia behave badly, there will inevitably be consequences if we do not improve our performance. It is an entirely foreseeable risk that if this plant is built it will likely be retired early due to international and local pressure.

In summary it won't deliver on jobs, it won't deliver on cheap power, it is not needed for grid stability but it will be a very expensive stranded asset that will pollute the local environment while it is operating and add unnecessarily to our GHG emissions.