

Concern for the environment degradation caused in my local area by coal mining and drilling for coal seam gas led me to a public information event in Coonamble in July 2019 where I had the opportunity to hear:

Mark Ogge from the Australia Institute who spoke about the devastating economic impacts of unconventional gas in regional areas, explaining a phenomena I had observed that gas projects DO NOT bring employment and economic advantage (see [Mark Ogge, The Australian Institute – The Economic Impacts of Unconventional Gas - YouTube](#)). The Kurri Kurri power station is expected to provide a mere 10 ongoing jobs; it would be more productive and socially responsible for those engaged in its construction to be employed in projects such as creating public housing

Bruce Robertson from the Institute of Energy, Economics and Financial Analysis who explained the chaos of the domestic gas market (or rather lack of a market) (see [Bruce Robertson, IEEFA, Narrabri Gas Project & domestic gas markets - YouTube](#)). We know that existing gas power stations are vastly underutilised and that a new gas facility WILL NOT reduce power prices in NSW.

Nicky Ison from the Community Power Agency who provided an overview of the potential of Australian renewables and explained why we no longer needed investment in gas (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=2ITdhMkUAeM&feature=youtu.be>). The rapid development and uptake in renewable energy, together with big batteries, has led Australia's Energy Market Operator to conclude we simply DO NOT NEED new gas projects to meet demand.

The proposed pipeline required to carry the gas to the facility is still in planning and meeting with determined resistance from communities across the proposed development: no pipeline means no gas means no working facility and an appalling waste of taxpayers' money.

In the context of climate change, and the fact that gas is a powerful driver of that climate change, it is simply unconscionable for the Federal Government to be attempting to force the advancement of this project. As the press release from Nature Conservation Council, 15 May 2021 ([release here](#)) observed: 'The \$600M the Federal Government is squandering on a Kurri Kurri gas plant would be better invested in big batteries'