

## **Knitting Nannas – Hunter Loop**

We object to building a gas plant as described in the EIS for the following reasons.

### **We are already experiencing the impacts of climate change**

Australians have lived through a number of extreme weather events over the last two years, including the Black Summer bushfires, drought and intense heatwaves. There has also been another mass bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef.

### **Gas is a fossil fuel driving climate change**

Burning coal, oil and gas drives climate change. We must urgently phase out all fossil fuels, including gas, if we are to avoid dangerous climate change. The International Energy Agency stated this just a day before this project was announced. Every time we expand or build new fossil fuel infrastructure, including gas power stations, we are putting more Australian lives and livelihoods in danger. ([source](#))

### **There is no need for a new gas power station**

AEMO's Electricity Statement of Opportunities 2020 report, found that New South Wales was not expected to exceed the Reliability Standard at any point to 2028-29. On the stricter Interim Reliability Measure, a capacity shortfall of just 154MW is identified after the Liddell power station closes in 2023-24. AEMO expects this small gap to be filled by "*the New South Wales Government's commitment to provide capital projects funding to 170 MW of dispatchable capacity under its Emerging Energy Program*". ([Source](#))

### **Burning gas is expensive**

Burning gas is a very expensive way to provide electricity. Australia's experts, including AEMO, don't foresee an increased role for gas on a pathway to a lower cost electricity grid. ([source](#))

### **Existing gas power stations rarely turn on**

In 2020, NSW's gas power stations hardly turned on. They had a capacity factor of just 1.6%. This is because gas power stations are struggling to compete with far cheaper energy sources like coal, wind and solar. ([Source](#)) Snowy Hydro already owns a large gas power station in New South Wales: the Colongra gas power station. If Snowy Hydro already own a gas power station that they hardly ever turn on, why do they want to build another?

### **We have clean and affordable alternatives to gas**

Batteries and pumped hydro can provide clean and affordable power. These are dispatchable technologies and batteries are being embraced by the private sector, with a number of projects planned in NSW. Snowy hydro should invest in these technologies to help reduce New South Wales' emissions, improve grid security and put downward pressure on electricity prices. ([source](#))

## **Opposition to the Pipeline**

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.

## **Local pollution**

The plant will run on diesel for 6 months in 2023 before the pipeline is complete and for 150 hours each year ongoing.

EIS page.viii: combustion of natural gas and diesel fuel. Both of these fuel sources generate emissions of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen oxides, sulphur oxides, suspended particulate matter (such as PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>), and unburnt hydrocarbons and other volatile organic compounds.

## **Noise**

The environmental assessment 16.2.2 says that adjacent industrial lots will experience noise from the power station "however the noise would remain below the noise criteria for industrial receivers" ie 68dB. This will discourage development that could be providing serious numbers of jobs, not just 10.

There are housing developments proposed close to the site which will be affected by the noise and air pollution.

## **Summary**

This project does not make sense economically or environmentally. It is taking Australia in the wrong direction in the face of increasing global pressure to reduce emissions for no tangible benefits. Our courts have recognised that we have a duty of care to protect young people from foreseeable climate change harms. Please reject this project.