

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

By Simon Validzic

To whom it may concern:

**I am writing to ask the Government of New South Wales to publicly reject the gas-fired power station that is proposed for Kurri Kurri in the Hunter Valley.**

It is necessary to reject this socially and ecologically unacceptable gas-fired power station for its direct and indirect negative impacts on indigenous peoples and the local community, native plant and animal species, the environment and climate.

Most people who publicly oppose this project will state reasons regarding climate change, the cost of the project, and the fact that it creates so few jobs. Despite its high cost of 600 million AUD (*Australian Dollars*), the project will only create 10 jobs and it is a waste of public money. We all know that natural gas is a greenhouse gas when it escapes unburnt as is the carbon dioxide that is formed when natural gas is burned. Escaped natural gas and the products of combustion are also harmful to human health.

**I would like to draw attention to the destruction that takes place due to the drilling for natural gas. In order to get to the gas fields, forests and other natural ecosystems are destroyed and plants and native animals get killed. Most important of all, sites that are important to indigenous peoples get destroyed.**

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 Queensland to Newcastle in New South Wales 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.

Traditional Owners from many Nations have come together to put an end to the ongoing threat of fracking on their countries, which will denigrate and desecrate their lands. Traditional Owners hold Native Title and Land Rights - a system that is meant to protect and enforce their rights. For years, Traditional Owners have been told lies by the gas and oil corporations - that there would be no damage to the country or toxins in their waters. These companies will not even answer the most basic of questions - where they plan to drill or how many wells they want to build.

The gas corporations lack any respect for Traditional Owners. They have failed to follow proper process in consultation with Traditional Owners, failed to acquire consent, failed to provide transparency in their dealings with them, and have systematically excluded the voices of Traditional Owners from the decision-making process for activities on their Country. All this undermines the land rights of Traditional Owners.

The size of Aboriginal land that is targeted for fracking is almost twice the size of Tasmania. It would be environmentally catastrophic and go against the stated wishes of Traditional Owners, who are anxious that sacred and culturally important sites are at risk of destruction.

*Link to a campaign on behalf of Traditional Owners against gas drilling in the Northern Territory:*

<https://www.getup.org.au/campaigns/first-nations-justice-campaigns/sign-the-open-letter-to-end-fracking-in-the-beetaloo/unite-with-traditional-owners-against-fracking>

Australia has the worst record in the world when it comes to species extinctions and is as bad as Brazil when it comes to the destruction of forests. Australia also has a high consumption of fossil fuels per person..

Gas is not a sustainable source of energy because it is also a fossil fuel, and reserves may be large but they are finite. I take this opportunity to state that not all battery technology (*that is required to store electricity that is obtained using solar and wind energy*) is socially or ecologically responsible because it involves lithium from South America. I hope that research in Croatia that uses sodium chloride to store energy brings results.

*I lived in Australia from 1970 to 1992. Since I did not wish to be part of a country in which the large-scale destruction of natural habitats, logging of forests and extermination of native animals continue to take place and which is the result of genocide against indigenous peoples, I returned to my country of origin and encourage others to do the same. For the same reasons, I try to avoid and campaign against European imports of products that are made from raw materials that were grown or mined in South and North America, Australia, Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. I campaign against projects in Croatia that would involve the import of coal and gas such as the expansion of a coal-fired power plant and the planned LNG terminal.*

Please take consider the environment, native plant and animal species, indigenous peoples and the local community and reject this gas-fired power station project.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Validzic  
Froudeova 1  
10020 Zagreb-Novı Zagreb  
Croatia  
e-mail: [sime.validzic@gmail.com](mailto:sime.validzic@gmail.com)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sime.validzic>  
Mobile telephone number: +385 91 5182229