

LATERAL PIPELINE PROJECT (Kurri Kurri Power Station)

Project Planning Assessment Submission: -

I wish to put on record that I have a number of objections to the Kurri Kurri Lateral Pipeline Proposal proceeding.

The proposal has been put forward as an independent project, which is fundamentally incorrect, when it is directly and exclusively associated with the Kurri Kurri Power Station. This strategy results in the combined accumulative environmental and social impacts of both projects not being presented in the EIS and consequently not being assessed as part of the planning process. Separating mutually dependent projects as separate entities for planning assessment purposes bypasses the intent of the whole planning process as the true impact of the combined projects is not considered. This is a fundamentally dishonest practise that should not be allowed as it undermines the integrity of the planning process. Not to consider their accumulated impacts is unconscionable, misleading and a major flaw in the current State and Federal project planning processes.

I did object to the Kurri Kurri Power Station Project on the same basis, that it was not a stand-alone project. The proponent failed to satisfactorily address the issue in their Submission Response, instead reiterating what was included in the original EIS Executive Summary that the project will require a new gas pipeline connection and receiving station to be provided by a third party and subject to an independent approval. The proponent did not, or choose not, to understand the context of my objection and the issue was not addressed. Subsequently I contacted the planning minister through his official email portal advising that I was not satisfied that the submission response addressed the issues raised, after many months I am still waiting on his reply.

The justification of the need for the Kurri Kurri Power Station and its associated Lateral Supply Pipeline is questionable. Alternative renewable energy technologies are available to support firming and network stability requirements for the National Electricity Grid and should be considered on their merits as alternatives as part of this project's evaluation. Within the Integrated System Plan prepared by the Australian Energy Market Operator it is shown that gas will have a minimal diminishing role in the firming of the power supply. The community will be expected to endure considerable disruption and irreversible environmental damage for a power generation system that will have a limited use and short lifespan, resulting in expensive stranded assets. The necessity to compress and store gas to maintain the operating duration of the plant, due to the inadequate direct capacity of the gas supply network, will result in the power despatched from this plant being more expensive and polluting than other firming sources.

The community has been advised that NSW will experience a shortfall in gas supply in the near future. This despite the fact that Australia is the world's largest exporter of LNG. If domestic supply requirements were prioritised over exports supply would not be an issue. Because of this focus of prioritising exports, the gas supply to the Kurri Kurri Power Station will be dependent on the implementation of other highly contentious infrastructure projects including: -

Hunter Gas Pipeline

Narrabri Gas Project

Newcastle Gas Terminal

All of the above projects have considerable environmental, social and economic consequences for NSW and the Australian community in general. Australia pays heavily for the benefit of others.

The Australian Government has committed under the Paris Climate Agreement to take positive steps to ensure that as a society we reduce emissions to contain global warming. The Kurri Kurri Power Station and in particular the associated projects to provide for its ongoing operation will generate substantial direct and fugitive emissions. Consequently, this and the associated projects are incompatible with our International Commitments and should be rejected on that basis.

Allan Evans – Lambton NSW