

14 February 2020

ATT: Manager Major Projects  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

To Whom it May Concern,

**Re: Submission for SSD10313 - Western Sydney Green Gas Project Horsley Park**

Austral Bricks is a large user of gas. The company owns three gas fired brick factories in Horsley Park, two of which are currently in operation and the third is undergoing a significant upgrade. Therefore, the company has significant interest in the Western Sydney Green Gas project.

Our understanding of the green gas proposal is to construct hydrogen plant, and add up to 2% hydrogen to the gas network, with a function to temporarily release 10% hydrogen blend into the network.

Austral Bricks recognises that hydrogen is a potential energy source that can aid in the decarbonisation of the gas network and stabilisation of the electricity grid. As a large gas user, this fuel is supported as it may assist our company to meet its target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, however no trials or studies have been undertaken to understand the quality, cost and environmental impacts of hydrogen blend fuel on brick manufacturing.

The end user's ability to use the hydrogen blend fuel, energy costs and air emissions (other than greenhouse emissions) should be further investigated. The effect of hydrogen blend in the brickmaking process is unknown and may potentially increase gas usage requirements for the factory (due to reduced gas quality and heating values), increase the generation of air emissions such as HCl and HF (reaction between hydrogen and naturally occurring minerals in clay), and alter the ability to manufacture bricks that meet quality standards.

Austral Bricks recommends that changes to mains gas composition on brickmaking requires laboratory and kiln scale trials, and that the proponent should work with Austral Bricks to undertake a meaningful investigation prior to any approvals being granted for the release of hydrogen to the network.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

  
Greg Silvestri

*General Manager Austral Bricks NSW*

