

Public Meeting - Springvale Water Treatment Project SSD 7592: Speech

Hi,

Thank you Planning Assessment Commission for coming here to Lithgow to listen to our opinions on Springvale Water Treatment Project.

My name is Daniel Brebrich and I am an electrical engineer working at Mount Piper Power Station. I have lived in Lithgow for over 4 years now. Working at the power station greatly enhanced my knowledge on how it operates and the impacts it has to the wider community of NSW.

I support the new water treatment plant.

I believe we still need Mount Piper Power Station particularly on the grounds of energy security.

Last summer, the Australia Energy Market Operator or AEMO, put out market notices during peak demand on lack of generation reserve. This may happen again this coming summer season and possibly the following summer. This may cause load shedding or local blackouts in NSW. You can view market notices on AEMO's website and is freely available to the public. An example of market notice was on the 10th of February of this year on, Forecast Lack of Reserve level 3. The minimum generation reserve available is -189 MW between 1600 to 1700 hours. This simply means generation could not meet demand and this was while Mount Piper was running at maximum operating capacity.

I believe in renewable generation and it is great that new projects are underway. Taking 15% off generation capacity is a large hit to the system. It is far easier to shut down a power plant than to restart or build new generation plants. That is, if you shut down Mount Piper, it may be very difficult to put it back into service.

In terms of local jobs, there needs to be plans in place to transition out of fossil fuel industry. It is not fair on Lithgow community to suffer job losses while other generators and coal mines continue to operate.

At the very least, Mount Piper needs to continue to operate in the short term and the water treatment project will also help with improving water quality on the Cox's river catchment.

Thank you Planning Assessment Commission for coming here to listen to what we have to say.