

Subject: Submission regarding application by Alcoa Australia for an Electricity Generation Licence for the Anglesea coal mine and power station.

I refer to the attached emails and wish to make the following brief submission in relation to the current application by Alcoa Australia for an Electricity Generation Licence for the Anglesea coal mine and power station ("Application").

I am affected by the Application because my wife and I own a property at Anglesea.

The points that I wish to make are relatively simple.

Media reports today indicate that Alcoa Australia will not be seeking further government funding for its Point Henry smelter and that an announcement on the future of the Point Henry smelter is expected in about March this year.

The ongoing operation of the Anglesea coal mine and power station have always been justified on the basis that the mine and power station are essential to provide power to the Point Henry smelter, which provides significant employment in Geelong. If the smelter ceases to operate this justification no longer exists.

The adverse effects of the Anglesea coal mine and power station are well documented. In this respect I refer for example to the attached Submission from Surf Coast Air Action and Transition Town to the Standing Committee on Community Affairs References Committee, which is available on the internet. The submission refers to a number of other relevant documents.

In view of the above matters I submit that:

1. The Commission should consider deferring its decision on the Application until after Alcoa Australia clarifies its future plans in relation to the Point Henry smelter; and
2. The grant of any licence (including any interim licence) should be subject to conditions that electricity is only generated for the purposes of supplying power to the Point Henry smelter and that a detailed and independent health and environmental assessment of the impact of the Anglesea coal mine and power station is commissioned to allow the Commission to make an informed decision on whether further conditions should be imposed on any licence that may be granted.

If you have any queries I can be contacted by email or telephone.

Yours faithfully,

Andrew Laird

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Dear Mr Phillips,

Thank you for your email. There is one further point that I wish to add if I may, which only occurred to me last night.

If Alcoa Australia elects to close the Point Henry smelter then self evidently the smelter will no longer draw electricity from the grid. In circumstances where the Application (Section 1) indicates that the Anglesea coal mine and power station supplies approximately 40% of the smelter's requirements it follows that:

1. The other 60% of the smelter's requirements have to be supplied by other sources elsewhere on the grid;
2. Closure of the smelter would mean that this power (the equivalent of the output of one and a half Anglesea coal mine and power stations) is no longer required; and
3. If both the Point Henry smelter and the Anglesea coal mine and power station were closed the net effect would therefore be that demand on the grid would be significantly reduced.

In my submission this is a compelling reason why Alcoa Australia should be required to provide clarity in relation to its plans for the Point Henry smelter before the Application is dealt with.

Yours faithfully,

Andrew Laird

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