



Dalton citizens fire up

By TOM SEBO

“LIP service” and “more spin”. This is how the people of Dalton and Gunning described energy giant AGL’s attempts to convince them the Gas Fired Power station, which will be located 3km from the village, would not have a negative impact on their lives.

The company held a community consultation meeting on Wednesday night to respond to concerns raised during the NSW Department of Planning’s submissions process and come up with measured solutions to the issues.

However, the 100 or so locals in attendance, were not impressed with the company’s presentation.

The community made it clear that they wanted straightforward answers to their concerns and, after the meeting, few felt as though they’d received them.

The strong sentiment amongst the group was that they did not want a power station so close to their homes. But it was made clear to them that this issue would not even be discussed.

“First off AGL is not going to move the power station. That is not negotiable...” the meeting’s facilitator Kath Elliott, from GHD consultants said.

“Having an argument with AGL about the Power Station is not the right avenue. AGL is a proponent for the power station, they won’t get into an argument about whether it is there or not, it is in their interest to put it there.”

She said the protesters would have to lobby the state government and suggested locals have “a foot in either camp”, meaning they could actively oppose the development, but, if it did gain approval, work with the company to help “alleviate” some of the community’s concerns.

Resident and actor Max Cullen wanted to see “people power” stop it from going ahead.

“We don’t want a power plant in this area but they’ve told us today that there is going to be one, we will have to go to government to make a change, so I suppose that is our next step,” he said after the meeting.

“There is absolutely no necessity for it. We don’t need more power. We don’t need this power plant... We’re using less and less power all the time... We will just keep fighting the good fight and try to get the public on side, particularly the shareholders of AGL.”

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ANSWERS: Real estate agent Graeme Welsh is proposing to shift his distinctive Federation style business over the road in an effort to conserve the unique building. A development company has bought the land.

How to move house, literally

By LOUISE THROWER

IF imagination and willpower can move the Big Merino 800 metres, shifting a double storey heritage house across the street should be a cinch.

That’s real estate agent Graeme Welsh’s solution to preserving his little slice of history – a unique 1914 timber building housing his business in Lagoon St.

He’s challenging people to think outside the square on Goulburn’s heritage, and come up with solutions rather than arm waving.

A company acting on Woolworths’ behalf has bought up land in the area for a possible development, including Mr Welsh’s, but the agent wants to head off any chance of demolition.

Under the deal, he will retain ownership of the house. That was

his idea given the time and money he’s spent on restoration over the past five years.

If Council approves his development application, 15 Lagoon St, complete with furniture inside and a frame underneath, will be jacked up on a low loader and shifted 15 to 20 metres directly opposite.

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