

# Honouring Lion Bill

LIONS Club treasurer Bill Sommerville received the organisation's highest honour on Saturday night, the Melvin Jones Fellowship. Mr Sommerville has fulfilled the office for the last 13 years and was honoured at the 37th annual changeover dinner, which was held at the Goulburn Soldiers Club. Bob Collins, the Club's 2011-12 president, made the presentation to the rather surprised treasurer who was a little perplexed that he had not seen any paperwork come through the books, which he has kept meticulously for over a decade. Before the night was over Mr Sommerville got to return the favour, presenting the club's auditor John Hall the James D Richardson Honour Award (pictured). Photo DARRYL FERNANCE.



# For power or profits?

By TOM SEBO

ARE AGL's profit margins more important than Dalton residents' quality of life? This was the question many were asking at last week's Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) public consultation meeting following revelations that the company's justification for its proposed \$1.5-billion gas fired power station may be based on out dated information. When the *Post* contacted the energy giant, a spokesperson said they would not comment on any of the public submissions. During her address, Member for Burrinjuck Katrina Hodgkinson said the

'Project Need and Justification' section of the Director General's Environmental Assessment Report was based on two reports published in 2007 that called for more energy developments to help meet future shortages. However, Origin Energy's decision to withdraw an application to build a similar gas fired power station at Big Hill was based on a report, authored earlier this year, which revealed that there would be an oversupply of energy in NSW by 2020. "We have two diametrically opposed assessments on the future need for power supplies," Minister Hodgkinson said. "Dalton's based on five year old reports and Origin's report this year. This means the only other justification for the Dalton

power station proposal is...AGL's financial bottom line." In the Preliminary Environmental Assessment, conducted by URS in March, 2010, it listed the company's retail position as a factor that determined the project need and timing. "This is influenced by AGL's ability to hedge market exposure through contracting," the report stated. "As the time approaches where demand equals supply, the wholesale price of electricity to AGL rises, sometimes dramatically, while sales to consumers remain at a fixed, regulated price. This affects the contact market and increases the cost of electricity for AGL that it supplies to consumers at a fixed price.

"The Dalton Power Project is fundamental to allowing AGL to continue to supply electricity to consumers at a competitive and regulated price. "In order to reduce its exposure to electricity price volatility, AGL seeks to construct and operate a gas fired peaking power station to mitigate against potential substantial losses during times of high price." "You have received many comments and submissions from my constituents detailing their concerns about the impact this project would have on their way of life: a way of life which continues to attract new residents to the area," Minister Hodgkinson said.

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