

media release

23 March 2018

Mackay Gas Turbine

Stanwell has not made any formal decision to withdraw Mackay Gas Turbine from service.

The unit was commissioned in 1975. It is the highest cost peaking generator in Queensland and uses diesel oil for fuel.

It was originally built to provide black start capability to Collinsville Power Station which was decommissioned in 2012. At that time, three power stations were built to provide black start capability in Queensland. Mackay Gas Turbine is the only one of the three which has not been retired. There are a number of other power stations in Queensland which now have that capability, including Stanwell's Tarong Power Station.

The Mackay Gas Turbine generally only runs to provide system frequency support and has only operated for 79 hours in the past two years. It represents less than 0.3 per cent of total Queensland generation capacity.

Mackay Gas Turbine was originally due to be retired in 2016/17 after 40 years of life. However, based on a commercial evaluation, Stanwell made a decision to extend the life of the plant until at least 2021. At the time, Stanwell invested less than \$300,000 to ensure it continued to comply with health and safety requirements.

The potential closure date of 2020/21 was communicated to the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) in 2016 and made publicly available as part of AEMO's Electricity Statement of Opportunities. It has continued to be published in market updates since 2016.

In 2019/20, Stanwell will undertake further life extension evaluations and, if appropriate, will extend the life of the plant for a further five years.

The Mackay Gas Turbine's eventual withdrawal from service will not have any impact on security of supply in Queensland even at times of peak demand.

There is no workforce on site and any eventual closure will have no impact on jobs.

Media Enquiries

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