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Director – Energy Assessments,  
Development Assessment,  
Department of Planning and Environment,  
4 Parramatta Square,  
12 Darcy Street,  
Parramatta NSW 2150

Dear Sir/Madam,

**SUBMISSION IN RESPONSE TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT OF THE  
HUMELINK PROJECT**

I/we hereby submit this response to the HumeLink Environmental Impact Statement report.

We object to the HumeLink proposal on a number of grounds, as follows:

**HumeLink will inflict untold damage to our precious wildlife and increase  
greenhouse gases**

We have made considerable effort to preserve the fauna and flora on our property and have made previous submissions to Transgrid, no acknowledgement has been forthcoming.

**- Humelink will devastate habitats and wildlife corridors for our wombats, echidnas, wallabies, wedge tail eagles and monitor lizards and devastate some of our rare flora such as the last stand of SILVER BANKSIA in the district.**

With the State of the Environment report highlighting that the number of threatened plant and animal species has risen, and further extinction of Australian species is expected, it is critical all large, high-impact infrastructure projects in NSW must minimise destructive environmental impact.

In its current form, the HumeLink Tower proposal will devastate habitats **for more than 80 threatened or endangered species** of flora and fauna. At the same time, undergrounding provides a far less destructive alternative at a marginal extra cost.

Transmission towers will also increase the risk of bushfires, as highlighted in several recent bushfire inquiries, which could devastate wildlife populations and create large quantities of greenhouse gases.

**-Impact of wildlife**

The proposed path for the HumeLink towers is home to a range of endangered, threatened and vulnerable animals, including the Koala, Booroolong Frog, Superb Parrot, Dusky Woodswallow, Gang-gang Cockatoo, Yellow-bellied Glider, Eastern Pygmy Possum, Squirrel Glider, Greater Glider, Scarlet Robin, Flame Robin, Powerful Owl, Masked Owl and Booroolong and the near threatened Spotted Quoll.

Climbing and flying threatened and protected species, such as Wedge-Tailed Eagles, are particularly vulnerable to powerlines. Also at risk are critically endangered flora such as the Leek Orchid, Blue Tongued Greenhood, Pimelea Bracteata, a tract of the endangered ecological community, the White Box, Yellow Box woodland, remnant native vegetation areas, a nationally important wetland, and land that has been rehabilitated through government-funded Landcare projects.

Lack of disturbances allow native animals to prosper:

- |                                 |                                     |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| -eastern grey Kangaroo          | <i>macropus giganteus</i>           |
| -red necked wallaby             | <i>macropus rufogriseus</i>         |
| -swamp wallaby                  | <i>wallabia bicolour</i>            |
| -brush tail possum              | <i>trichosourus vulpecula</i>       |
| -ring tail possum               | <i>pseudocheirus peregrinus</i>     |
| -agile antechinus               | <i>antechinus agilis</i>            |
| -wombat                         | <i>vombatus ursinus</i>             |
| -echidna                        | <i>tachyglossidae</i>               |
|                                 |                                     |
| -copperhead snake               | <i>austrelaps ramsayi</i>           |
| -eastern tiger snake            | <i>notechis scutatus</i>            |
| -red belly black snake          | <i>pseudechis porphyriacus</i>      |
|                                 |                                     |
| -long necked tortoise           | <i>chelodina longicollis</i>        |
| -jacky lizard                   | <i>amphibolurus muricatus</i>       |
| -eastern blue tongue            | <i>tiliqua scincoides</i>           |
| -blotched blue tongue           | <i>tiliqua nigrolutea</i>           |
| -cunninghams skink              | <i>egernia cunninghami</i>          |
|                                 |                                     |
| -frogs species unidentified     |                                     |
|                                 |                                     |
| -microbats species unidentified |                                     |
|                                 |                                     |
| -yellow tailed black cockatoo   | <i>calyptorhynchus funereus</i>     |
| -yellow crested cockatoo        | <i>cacatua galerita</i>             |
| -red brown tree creeper         | <i>climacteris erythrops</i>        |
| -crimson rosella                | <i>platycertus elegans</i>          |
| -superb fairy wren              | <i>malurus cyaneus</i>              |
| -kookaberra                     | <i>dacelo novaeguinea</i>           |
| -choughs                        | <i>corcorax melanorhamphos</i>      |
| -gang gang                      | <i>callocephalon fimbriatum</i>     |
| -dollar bird                    | <i>eurostomus orientalis</i>        |
| -eastern spinebill              | <i>acanthorhynchus tenuirostris</i> |
| -king fisher                    |                                     |
| -finch                          |                                     |
| -wedge tail eagle               | <i>aquila audax</i>                 |
| -barn owl                       | <i>tyto alba delicatula</i>         |
| -galah                          | <i>elolophus roseicapilla</i>       |
| -scarlet robin                  | <i>petroica multicolour</i>         |
| -yellow robin                   | <i>eopsaltria australis</i>         |

This list is nowhere complete.

### **-Impact of Flora.**

No Bushfires have affected this area since the 1940s, may be earlier, preserving unique flora.

Due to the low level of disturbances and infiltrations, plant life is diverse and unique and above all, original.

For example, the BANKSIA species (silver banksia) is the last stand of this species in the district, we are trying to preserve this species for future generations.

Some of our plant species are:

-acacia malanoxylon	blackwood
-acacia rhigiophilla	dagger wattle rare
-allocasuarina littoralis	black she oak
-banksia marginata	silver banksia
-brachyloma daphnoides	daphne heath
-brachyscome sp	small white daisy
-helichrysum scorpioides	button everlasting
-limitedhibertia obtusifolia	grey guinea flower
-carex fascicularis	tassel sedge
-cassinia aculeata	common cassinia
-cassinia arcuata	drooping cassinia
-cheilanthes sieberi	rock fern
-daviesia latifolia	hop bitter pea
-dinalla revoluta	black flax lily
-dipodium orchid roseum	pink hyacinth orchid
-exocarpos cupressiformis	cherry ballart
-eucalyptus mannifera	brittle gun
-eucalyptus sieberi	silvertop ash
-goodenia	
-native geranium 2 species	
-hardenbergis violacea	purple coral pea
-melichrus urceolatus	urn heath
-lomandra longifolia	spiney matt rush
-lomandra filiformus	
-leptocerus rabbit	ear orchid
-pterostylis	green hooded orchid
-persoonia linearis	narrow leaved geebung
-stypandra glauca	nodding blue lily
-austrostypa sp	spear grass
-micrrolaena stipoides	weeping grass
-themeda triandra	kangaroo grass
-poa sp	tussock grass
-rytidosperra sp	wallaby grass
-fungi various	

**-Humelink will severely increase the risk of bushfires and worsen greenhouse gas emissions.**

Ironically, multi-billion-dollar transmission projects being carried out in the name of the environment to reduce global warming are now threatening to inflict untold damage to our precious native animals and plants through massive land clearing, destruction of wildlife corridors and increasing the risk of deadly bushfires.

Transmission towers will also increase the risk of bushfires, as highlighted in several recent bushfire inquiries, which could devastate wildlife populations and create large quantities of greenhouse gases.

**Greenhouse gas emissions**

Destruction of wildlife habitat is only one of the environmental impacts of the current HumeLink proposal.

The clear-felling of land along the 360-metre-long, 70-metre-wide corridor of the Transgrid preferred route directly conflicts with decades of scientific research demonstrating that vegetation clearance directly contributes to a warming and changing climate. As does the manufacture of carbon-intensive construction materials, such as concrete and steel, used to build HumeLink.

The increased risk of bushfires from the HumeLink create another potential source of carbon emissions. In fact, assessments of the damaging 2019-20 summer bushfires suggest that more than a year's worth of Australian greenhouse gas emissions were released due to the more than 18 million hectares of area burnt, as much as double previous estimates.

#### **-Noise**

Audible noise levels from HumeLink, in certain weather conditions, will exceed NSW Noise Guidelines night time criteria, also affecting fauna.

The situation is exacerbated by adjacent transmission lines.

#### **-Environmental**

Furthermore, Humelink is undermining regional development by affecting the liveability, workability and beauty from impacted regions.

#### **-Conclusion**

It is inconceivable to think that in this century, the transmission of green power requires environmental destruction. While there is no doubt that we need renewable energy, the proposed transmission is not the answer. **The cost of undergrounding is more than offset by enduring environmental benefits.**

**We are also having many reservations regarding Transgrids costing estimates .**

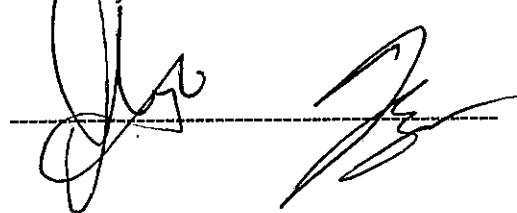
Recent costings provided by independent consultants and real-world experience overseas show that the differential cost between undergrounding and overhead transmission is much smaller than Transgrid's inflated estimates, which have already proved to be wildly inaccurate.

Taking transmission **underground**, as they have in Europe and California and Transgrid has recently done in Sydney's CBD, is a much more environmentally responsible option to ensure a renewable energy solution that our natural environment and future generations deserve.

We/I urge the Committee to recommend HumeLink and all other large scale transmission projects being undertaken be decided on what's best for our precious environment. If we are striving for green energy, we need to consider the transmission and not simply generation.

Yours sincerely,

Ben Heij  
Tina Heij

The block contains two handwritten signatures. The first signature on the left is for Ben Heij, and the second signature on the right is for Tina Heij. Both signatures are written in black ink and are positioned above a horizontal dashed line.

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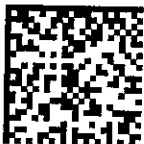
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