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

**Submission in Response to the Environment Impact Statement Report
HumeLink project**

Dear Sir/Madam

In regard to the Environmental Impact Statement Report Transgrid Company is carrying out on the proposed HumeLink Transmission Line Project, I wish to register my **opposition** to this project being constructed at all particularly **ABOVEGROUND**. My main reason being because of the tremendous negative effects on the environment, native habitat and farming practices. However I have many other issues as well.

I am a member of HumeLink Alliance Inc. and the Yass Landscape Guardians Group and have had a long association with country farming and living, as have my forebears for six generations before me. Therefore it stands to reason I have a great love and understanding of the bush and how it "works".

The following points are the other issues I have with the above HumeLink Project:

- Causing a bushfire through a flashover from clashing or fallen cables or connectors
The 2020 bushfires cost Transgrid \$140 million dollars to repair powerlines.
- Even with having a restricted area of 25m either side of the transmission line, the danger firefighters would be put in fighting the fire in the vicinity of live wires
(Transgrid have indicated at a CCG Meeting that the transmission line would not be turned off in the event of a bushfire)
- The restriction of water bombing aircraft operating in the vicinity of the transmission line due to smoke and water contacting live wires.
- Damage and loss of power caused by a severe storm. With the fact that China has admitted that they have had to compromise the quality of their steel due to high world wide demand surely increases the likelihood of pylons and cables with less strength being brought down by high winds.
- The restrictions and danger of farm machinery such as a harvester 4m. in height causing a flashover while passing under a transmission line only 9m. from the ground especially on a hot day.

- The restriction placed on essential farm operations such as aerial crop dusting, weed spraying and fertiliser spreading.
- The loss of productive land and precious habitat for birds and native animals through the easement and cleared areas for the pylons and crane pads.
- The disruption to farm activities and disturbances to stock
- The danger to flocks of migratory birds and Wedgetail Eagles
- The relatively unknown consequences of exposure to the high electro magnetic field both to humans and stock.
- The unsightly visual impact.
- And last but by no means least, **the undeserved severe distress landholders are suffering, including thoughts of suicide, caused by having no say or control over this situation.** Regardless of compensation, the vast majority are **against** having HumeLink being constructed **above ground** across their land resulting in environmental loss and damage, bushfire risk and disruption to farm operations.

All of the above could be eliminated if HumeLink was underground

Sure, effected landholders have been offered compensation. A payment which however will never compensate the loss of value of their land with the Transmission Line above ground. Land that otherwise would grow year by year in value.

Transgrid claim that the cost to put HumeLink underground would cost at least three times as much, a cost which would be passed onto consumers and tax payers and that is a no no. But then consider Snowy 2.0. Progressing at a snail pace with several stoppages, it was originally quoted to cost \$2.1 billion but has now blown out to \$12.2 billion, six times the original estimate and with the finish date postponed to 2029 what the cost will be by then doesn't bear thinking about! However that blowout is apparently acceptable.

Finally, it is not as though objecting landholders are asking for HumeLink to be scrapped altogether. **All they are asking for is that HumeLink be put underground with less compensation.** In many cases landholders are not interested in compensation, **just to be left alone to get on with producing food and natural fibres for all Australians and worldwide export trade!**

Surely, if we have to have these green renewables and transmission lines pushed onto us, it is not too much to ask for such a compromise

To me, to put HumeLink underground, would be a **win, win situation** all round. Better for the safety and security of the Transmission Line, better for the environment and better for the landholders who can continue running their farms without , not only the ongoing visual and mental impacts, but the worry of possible bush fire ignition and land use restrictions.

Kind regards


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