

RECEIVED

4PSQ MAIL ROOM

05 OCT 2023

DEPARTMENT OF
PLANNING, INDUSTRY
AND ENVIRONMENT



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

2 1 5 0

Henry Wright
70 Cardross Lane,
Yarra, NSW 2580

Spikehead028@gmail.com

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**

We raise our objections to the Humelink proposal on several compelling grounds, as outlined below.

Foremost among our concerns is the profound risk of bushfires in our vicinity, endangering numerous lives in this densely populated region. Power lines are a well-documented source and catalyst of fires, often igniting and intensifying blazes with alarming speed. The imposition of a 'no-fly ban' over the area, essential due to the hazardous conditions posed by the power lines, presents a grave peril to firefighting teams in close proximity. These teams are unjustly hindered from combatting fires near the power lines. The subterranean alternative offers a comprehensive solution to these pressing issues. Given the heightened bushfire risk stemming from global warming over the next 80 years, it is imperative that the government opt for the safer course of action. The potential loss of life in such an eventuality could be catastrophic.

Additionally, the subterranean lines would ensure uninterrupted power supply during fire emergencies, a crucial factor for effective firefighting.

Furthermore, the 'no-fly zone' restrictions prohibit farmers from engaging in vital activities such as crop dusting, weed spraying, drone surveillance of cattle and sheep, maintenance of water troughs, and spray irrigation anywhere near the power lines. This severely restricts our ability to manage our property efficiently and sustainably.

The electromagnetic field (EMF) emitted by high voltage power lines has a detrimental impact on insects, particularly bees, which are essential pollinators for our crops. Research conducted by Dr. Pawel Migdal from Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences in Poland reveals that bees exposed to high magnetic fields, akin to those emitted by high voltage power lines, exhibit significant alterations in behavior. This includes balance issues, with bees falling from walls and landing upside down on the floor, as well as impaired foraging, pollination, and hive navigation abilities. Such effects could lead to the collapse of entire bee colonies, jeopardizing our agricultural endeavors.

The adverse effects of EMF on humans are evident in our local community, where many attribute deaths and cancers among our neighbors to the existing 330 Kv power lines. The alarming prospect of a new 500 Kv powerline running in close proximity to our homes, resulting in an overall 830 Kv power load, is deeply concerning.

Moreover, the proposed overhead powerlines would devastate the visual aesthetics of our surroundings, potentially reducing property values by at least 30%. This is a grave concern for property owners who have invested their life savings in their farms.

The burgeoning tourism industry in our area would also suffer a blow, as tourists would be reluctant to stay anywhere near such imposing power lines.

Lastly, the loss of biodiversity within the 200-meter-wide easements would have a profound impact on numerous critical habitats, affecting not only endangered species and plants but also reducing the available space for those that remain. It is difficult to fathom any reasonable argument in favor of the overhead powerline proposal.

.....

Yours sincerely,

Henry Wright

