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10 October 2023

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

To whom it may concern,

SUBMISSION IN RESPONSE TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
HUMELINK – APPLICATION No. SSI-36656827
&
EPBC referral 2021/9121 under the EIS bilateral assessment process

I hereby submit my response to the HumeLink Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as published on the NSW Major Projects portal.

As a former Consultant Botanist working in Environmental Impact Assessment, I have reviewed Section 8 'Biodiversity' of the EIS and 'Technical Report 1 - Biodiversity Development Assessment Report' (BDAR). My response pays special attention to Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) protected under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). As an approved bilateral assessment process under the EPBC Act, the EIS must address Commonwealth protected matters (MNES), not just state protected matters. The BDAR must satisfy the approval requirements under EPBC Act for controlled actions (actions that result in a 'significant impact' on MNES). Approval of controlled actions must take into account EPBC Act policies and policy statements.

I object to the HumeLink EIS on the grounds that the EIS and associated BDAR fail to meet the requirements of the EPBC Act *Environmental Offsets Policy.* As a result of this failure, the impacts of Humelink on *threatened species and endangered communities* are *clearly unacceptable* and cannot be approved by the Minister.

I have reached this conclusion because the EIS and BDAR have these fundamental failings:

- The EIS fails to satisfy the requirement to 'avoid and minimise' impacts on MNES;
- The biodiversity offsets strategy (BDAR Chapter 16) fails to secure any biodiversity offsets;
- The EIS and BDAR fail to acknowledge that biodiversity offsets are costed at one third of the total capital expenditure for the project, or up to $1.34 billion.
- The EIS and BDAR provide entirely inadequate levels of detail for how this unprecedented quantum of offsets will be identified and secured, and fails to acknowledge that a realistic timeframe to achieve this is at least 10 years.

- The EIS fails to undertake any risk assessment of securing this unprecedented number of biodiversity offsets for grassy woodland, which means the project is unlikely to secure the required offsets; resulting in
- Humelink contributing to biodiversity loss and/or extinction.

Scale of impacts on threatened species and threatened ecological communities:

The EIS lists the following impacts on threatened species and threatened ecological communities. The impacts are larger than any average voter can imagine or get their head around. It is up to the NSW government to understand these impacts and protect the environment on behalf of the NSW people who expect their government to stop species and whole ecosystems from going extinct.

Remember that a Critically Endangered ecological community or species has already lost more than 90% of its original size. What's left is the last fragments and any amount of it is precious.

Table 1. Summary of native vegetation and threatened ecological communities impacted by Humelink. Source: Humelink EIS.

Threatened ecological community	Listing status	Area (hectares)
EPBC – listed as threatened		
White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland	Critically Endangered	111.47
Alpine Sphagnum Bogs and Associated Fens	Endangered	0.56
	Sub-total:	112.03
state - listed as threatened		
White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland	Critically Endangered	311.78
Coolac-Tumut Serpentinite Shrubby Woodland	Endangered	1.42
Tableland Basalt Forest	Endangered	37.42
Montane Peatlands and Swamps	Endangered	0.75
Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland	Endangered	0.56
	Sub-total:	351.93
Total native vegetation (Critically Endangered, Endangered & unlisted combined)**:**		**670.21 (1656.13 acres)**

For reference: 1 hectare = 2.47 acres; the MCG = 2 hectares; Bicentennial Park = 40 hectares.

Table 2. List of threatened species addressed in Humelink EIS. Note that not all species are listed in all tables in Section 8 so that all tables need to be consulted to understand the full impact of the project.
Source: Humelink EIS

Flora species - EIS main document	Fauna species – EIS main document
Page 8-40 (text): • *Ammobium craspedioides* • *Leucochrysum albicans var. tricolor* • *Xerochrysum palustre* Table 8-10: • *Bossiaea fragrans* • *Euphrasia arguta* • *Glycine latrobeana)* • *Grevillea iaspicula* • *Grevillea wilkinsonii* • *Pomaderris delicata* • *Prasophyllum bagoense* • *Prasophyllum innubum* • *Prasophyllum keltonii* • *Prasophyllum sp. Wybong* • *Pterostylis oreophila* Table 8-18: • *Acacia bynoeana* • *Kunzea cambagei* • *Pomaderris cotoneaster* • *Pterostylis oreophila* • *Thesium australe* • *Xerochrysum palustre* Table 8-19 • *Prasophyllum bagoense* • *Leucochrysum* • *albicans var. tricolor* • *Prasophyllum keltonii* • *Ammobium* • *craspedioides*	Table 8-11: • Alpine She-oak Skink • Booroolong Frog • Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby • Bush Stone-curlew • Gang-gang Cockatoo • Greater Glider • Key's Matchstick Grasshopper • Koala • Sloane's Froglet • Smoky Mouse • Southern Corroboree Frog • Squirrel Glider in the Wagga Wagga City Local Government Area • Stuttering Frog • Yellow-bellied Glider population on the Bago Plateau • Yellow-spotted Tree Frog Table 8-18: • Fork-tailed Swift • Pilotbird • Regent Honeyeater Table 8-19: • Gang-gang Cockatoo • Glossy Black-Cockatoo • Golden Sun Moth • Greater Glider • Grey-headed Flying-fox • Key's Matchstick Grasshopper • Koala • Painted Honeyeater • Pink-tailed Legless Lizard • Spotted-tailed Quoll • Striped Legless Lizard • Superb Parrot • Swift Parrot • Yellow-bellied Glider

Requirement to 'avoid and minimise' impacts on MNES

Table 8-2 on Page 8-4 of the Humelink EIS states that "*Any significant residual impacts on MNES not addressed under the BAM would be addressed in accordance with the EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy*".

The EPBC Act *Environmental Offsets Policy* states that: "*Offsets will not be considered until all reasonable avoidance and mitigation measures are considered*…". The flowchart in Figure 1 of the *Environmental Offsets Policy* shows that the assessment process must ask "*Have all reasonable measures been taken to avoid and mitigate impacts on protected matters?*".

The EIS has failed to identify the single most effective avoidance measure, and does not assess or consider taking this measure. In particular, the EIS fails to assess the avoid and minimise measures that could be achieved with underground rather than overhead transmission.

Most of the impacts on MNES associated with Humelink are a direct result of land clearing for the transmission corridor. The transmission corridor of Humelink is estimated to be 70 metres wide. A narrower corridor is the quickest and most direct way to reduce impacts associated with the transmission corridor.

The transmission corridor for an underground HVDC cable is 80% narrower than overhead transmission and would reduce the impacts on Critically Endangered grassy woodland and threatened species habitat by up to 80%.[1]

The failure of the EIS to identify this avoidance measure, or assess how much critically endangered woodland could be saved by undergrounding, demonstrates the failure of the EIS to meet the requirements of the EPBC Act *Environmental Offsets Policy.*

See Attachment 1 for further details of how undergrounding can be used to avoid and minimise impacts on the environment, which have also not been addressed by the EIS.

Biodiversity offsets strategy fails to secure <u>any</u> biodiversity offsets

The biodiversity offsets strategies for large government projects that I, myself, wrote as a consultant consisted of assessments of actual offset sites located on actual farms owned by landholders who actually wanted to sell offsets. The amount of offsets required was also known for certain. The Humelink biodiversity strategy has none of these features.

No actual offset sites are identified and it is only suggested that maybe some of the farmers impacted by Humelink may want to become offsets credit providers. It is also suggested that the actual amount of offsets required should be calculated at a later date creating uncertainty for landholders, the environment and those paying for the project, the NSW public. The uncertainty about the offsets is at an unacceptable level, far more than would be expected from a government-driven project.

The BDAR states (page 632):

"*it is proposed that the offset liability for the project would be revised once detailed design is*

[1] E.g. The easement for the underground sections of Basslink (Victoria) is 11.5 metres wide, compared with 55 metres for the sections that are overhead, which is an 80% reduction in width (APA 2023).

finalised and additional surveys carried out, particularly within currently inaccessible lands and for species credits which often have restricted seasonal survey requirements"

While the BDAR concludes this means that offset requirements may reduce, they could also increase, meaning the total amount of offsets required is not certain.

The BDAR states that the exact method for discharging their offset obligation has not been decided and they will be the ones who decide (not the regulator or someone who knowns about biodiversity conservation. Page 633 of the BDAR states:

"Transgrid are investigating the following options to formally satisfy the offset obligation for both State and Commonwealth, which include the following:

- *establishment of a Biodiversity Stewardship Site(s)* […]
- *retire credits from existing Transgrid BioBanking/Biodiversity Stewardship Sites*
- *purchase biodiversity credits from the credit market* […]
- *payment of the biodiversity offset obligation into the BCF* [Biodiversity Conservation Fund].

Transgrid would reserve the right to discharge their offset obligation through any of these options upon project approval."

It is unacceptable that the biodiversity offsets strategy is not further progressed than this. At a minimum, I would have expected costings for purchasing the required credits and setting up the Biodiversity Stewardship Sites. The Humelink Project Assessment Conclusions Report (PACR) calculates biodiversity offsets costing up to $1.34 billion (that's billion with a 'b'), which is one third of total capital expenditure for the project (page 29, Transgrid 2021). I would have expected that that a component of the project comprising 1/3 of the total project cost warrants much great attention in the EIS than a few vague paragraphs. An essential part of the EIS should be determining if this quantum of offsets is feasible and if this funding is sufficient. A minimum 10-year timeframe should be budgeted for to secure the required offsets and again, there is no mention of this.

It is unacceptable that the developer, and not the regulator, gets to decide what is best for the environment. The NSW government should have more pride in its environment and demand that they have the final decision on what is an acceptable offset.

To further highlight how undercooked the biodiversity offset strategy is, the following statement is made on page 639 of the BDAR –

"*Transgrid* […] *are investigating possible Biodiversity Stewardship sites* [BSAs] *within the locality. The potential for co-location of BSAs on properties that would be affected by the project, would also be reviewed in light of the potential benefits to local landowners*."

Unlike the biodiversity offset strategies I wrote, there is no mention of which sites are being investigated, or whether any of the impacted farmers are interested in having biodiversity offsets on their properties. Biodiversity offsets are permanently protected by conservation covenants attached to the land title. It is somewhat unlikely that a farmer whose land is newly encumbered with a transmission line easement is going to be putting their hand up to add yet another encumbrance in the form of conservation covenant.

Unprecedented number of biodiversity offsets for *White Box - Yellow Box - Blakely's Red Gum grassy woodlands and derived native grasslands*

Under the EPBC Act *Environmental Offsets Policy*, the quantum of offsets required for a given impact is calculated using an Excel-based tool called the "Offset Assessment Guide". The Offset Assessment Guide was developed by scientists at the University of Queensland based on the conservation science available at the time. It is our best guess at what compensation is required to stop a species going extinct as a result of development.

Using the Offset Assessment Guide for the 111.47 of EPBC Act-listed *White Box - Yellow Box - Blakely's Red Gum grassy woodlands and derived native grasslands*, and making some basic assumptions, results in an offset area of 475 hectares, a typical result of about 4 times the impact area. (And that's just for the first 16% of impacts on native vegetation). By contrast, the offset calculations in the BDAR only provides the number of credits required, giving no indication of the vast tracts of land that need to be found with credits on them to provide the offsets.

Humelink will require an unprecedented offset, which will take more than 10 years to acquire. The only comparable offset strategy is the Grassy Eucalypt Woodland Protected Area that the Victorian government needs to provide for impacts associated with the urban growth corridors of outer Melbourne (known as the Melbourne Strategic Assessment). Like Humelink, it is a large, multi-tenure project needing a large quantum of grassy woodland offsets to be progressively purchased from private landholders. From 2013 to 2019, the Victorian government succeeded in purchasing exactly zero (0) hectares of the Grassy Eucalypt Woodland Protected Area (DELWP 2019), after which they stopped producing progress reports, presumably because they got sick of writing 'nothing to report'. Humelink has copied this offset strategy of purchasing offsets progressively from private landholders, presumably because the eventual outcome is favourable to their outgoings.

Humelink will contribute to extinctions

If Humelink has the same success rate of purchasing grassy woodland offsets as they've had in Victoria, then the current offset strategy will fail to provide any offsets. If no offsets are provided or the amount is far less than what science tells us is required, Humelink will contribute to the loss of biodiversity and extinction. The EIS in its current form is set to be up there with the black & white footage of the last Tasmanian Tiger for documenting the failure of governments to protect our threatened species.

- I acknowledge and accept the Department of Planning and Environment's disclaimer and declaration.
- Declaration of political donations: None.
- I have provided this advice *pro bono* in my own time.

Yours sincerely,

Shana Nerenberg.
Botanist and accredited native vegetation assessor

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Attachment:

Submission to Inquiry into the feasibility of undergrounding the transmission infrastructure for renewable energy projects

Standing Committee on State Development
Legislative Council
Parliament of NSW

via online submission form

12 July 2023

Dear Committee members,

RE: Inquiry into the feasibility of undergrounding the transmission infrastructure for renewable energy projects

Please accept my technical submission addressing the following terms of reference:

(a) the costs and benefits of undergrounding,
(d) any environment impacts of undergrounding.

Introduction

My former occupation was Consultant Botanist at Biosis Pty Ltd undertaking Environmental Impact Assessment for large government projects. I am no longer in the industry and have no conflicts of interest in transmission projects. My only interest is compliance with and protection of the environment under existing environmental legislation.

I have expert knowledge in assessing impacts on threatened species and threatened ecological communities, including those impacted by the Humelink project. Prior to my professional experience, I undertook ecological research in the South West Slopes of NSW including on some of the properties affected by Humelink. I became aware of the Humelink project when farmers affected by the proposed development approached me for help with scientific research data I collected on their properties.

From my knowledge of construction impacts on threatened species, one of the key benefits of undergrounding is the potential to reduce the impacts by up to 80% compared with overhead transmission. Undergrounding will, in some instances, completely avoid impacts to sensitive areas like waterways – an outcome not achievable with overhead transmission lines. The impacts of undergrounding on threatened species and native vegetation are therefore likely to be far less than overhead transmission.

The following sections will provide details of how impacts on threatened species and native vegetation can be reduced using underground transmission lines. It is assumed that only HVDC cables would be considered for undergrounding (not HVAC).

Obligations under the EPBC Act

Transgrid submitted a referral (2021/9121) to the federal Minister for the Environment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) for approval of significant impacts on protected matters, termed Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES).

NOTE: the current Humelink EIS is an approved bilateral process under the EPBC Act. Impacts on MNES will be assessed during the EIS process so that Commonwealth-protected as well as state-protected matters must be considered during the state-based planning process. I will focus on MNES as there is overlap between the two and typically Commonwealth-listed matters are the more seriously threatened.

Under the EPBC Act, the proponent is required to avoid and mitigate impacts on protected matters (DSEWPaC 2012). Only after impacts have been minimised, and a residual of impacts cannot be avoided, then biodiversity offsets can be considered (DSEWPaC 2012).

Transgrid's EPBC referral and the EIS scoping document (Aurecon 2022) have made zero assessment of whether overhead or underground transmission is better able to avoid or minimise impacts on protected matters. This is a serious flaw in the assessment process. The remainder of this submission will provide an overview of how underground transmission lines have far more potential to avoid and minimise impacts on threatened species and threatened ecological communities than overhead transmission lines.

Benefits of undergrounding to threatened species and ecological communities

1. Reduced width of transmission corridor/easement

Habitat loss and fragmentation are key threats to native species. Construction of Humelink will require the clearing of large amounts of native vegetation and threatened species habitat, and the cleared corridor will contribute to fragmentation (Table 1). Overhead transmission lines for Humelink require a corridor 70 to 80 meters wide (Aurecon 2022). Where transmission lines are being duplicated, the corridor could be as wide as 130 m.

The initial impact assessment for Humelink has estimated that 1861.72 hectares of critically endangered woodland will be cleared to form this corridor (Table 1). For comparison, Bicentennial Park is 40 hectares so that 1861.72 hectares is a huge impact that will further threaten an ecosystem that is already on the brink of extinction.

Underground transmission lines could save as much as 80% of the impacts of overhead transmission lines. For example, the width of the easement for Basslink's underground cable is 11.5 metres, which is 80% narrower than Basslink's overhead transmission lines, which are 55 metres (APA 2023).

The benefits of a narrower transmission corridor for threatened species include:

- Reduced overall amount of clearing and habitat loss – an 80% reduction in corridor width has potential to save up to 1488.94 hectares of critically endangered grassy woodland and threatened species habitat (Table 1).
- Reduced risk to wildlife when crossing the corridors – Koalas, for example, are most vulnerable to predators when they have to descend from the trees and cross open ground. The risk of crossing an 80 m corridor is far greater than 11.5 m.
- Reduced barriers to wildlife movements – many species will not cross large open gaps at all and so become isolated when vegetation is cleared. Isolation is especially detrimental for threatened species with small numbers remaining. Species particularly affected barriers to movement include Squirrel Gliders (vulnerable in NSW) and Greater Gliders (Table 1). For example, Squirrel Gliders typically glide between gaps 20 – 35 m wide (van der Ree *et al*. 2010) so a corridor 70 to 80 metres wide may isolate populations. If gliders crossed on the ground, they would be very vulnerable to foxes, feral cats and other predators, so that the transmission easement would still contribute to their mortality.

While the construction corridor would be wider than the permanent easement, careful construction management can keep impacts to a minimum. Figure 1 shows a carefully managed construction corridor for a 525 kV underground transmission line. The construction corridor is not more than 20 m wide, still a 75% reduction compared with an 80 m corridor (Figure 1). The Committee must be sure to use Australian standards of construction management when assessing construction impacts. Unfortunately, I have come across some misinformation regarding the width of the construction corridor based on overseas examples with poor environmental regulation or confusion between HVDC and HVAC cables.

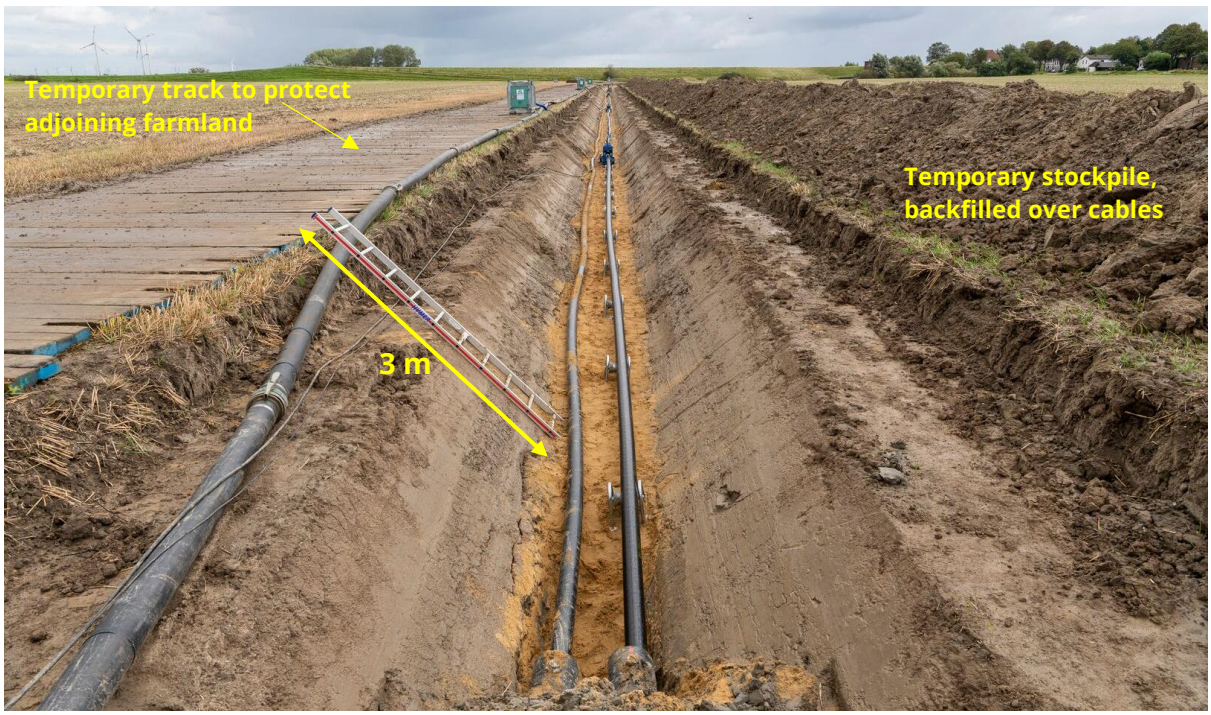


Figure 1. Construction of the 500 km long 525 kV SuedOstLink in Germany using construction corridor of minimum width necessary, as would be required in Australia. The construction corridor appears to be close to the 11.5 m width quoted above with another 3 m on each side for access and stockpiling excavated material, totalling 17.5 m. Source: TenneT

Table 1 lists the proposed impacts on MNES as provided in the Humelink EPBC referral 2021/9121. Data in *italics* is copied and pasted from the referral. The last column estimates the potential reduction that could be achieved through a carefully designed underground transmission line.

Table 1. Proposed impacts on matters protected under the EPBC Act (MNES) by Humelink overhead transmission project

Protected matter (MNES)	Listing status	Size of impact	Potential savings by undergrounding
Threatened ecological communities			
White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland	Critically Endangered	*1861.72 ha* [4598.6 acres]	Reduce by up to 80% down to 372.34 ha [920 acres]
Alpine Sphagnum Bogs and Associated Fens	Endangered	*5.27 ha*	Reduce by up to 80% down to 1.05 ha
Grey Box Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands.	Endangered	*0.14 ha*	Avoid completely with reduced corridor width
Threatened flora species			
Yass Daisy (Ammobium craspedioides)	Vulnerable	*The proposed action would potentially clear large areas of habitat of these species* NOTE: Initial assessment appears inadequate – Swamp Everlasting has been assessed as having the same habitat as the first three flora species. This is incorrect. Swamp Everlasting relies on wetlands, the previous three species occur in grasslands and grassy woodlands (DAWE 2021).	Reduce by up to 80%
Hoary Sunray (Leucochrysum albicans var. tricolor)	Endangered		
Button Wrinklewort (Rutidosis leptorrhynchoides)	Endangered		
Swamp Everlasting (Xerochrysum palustre)	Vulnerable		
Bago Leek Orchid (Prasophyllum bagoense)	Critically Endangered	*The proposed action has the potential to remove small areas of potential habitat for these species, introduce weeds and potentially alter hydrological processes that may support species' microhabitats.*	Avoid completely with reduced corridor width
Terrestrial Leek Orchid (Prasophyllum keltonii)	Critically Endangered		
Threatened fauna species			
Swift Parrot (Lathamus discolor)	Critically Endangered	*The proposed action may result in clearing of potential foraging habitat in suitable woodland areas near Wagga Wagga* NOTE: Initial assessment appears inadequate – Swift Parrot and Superb Parrot assessed as having the same habitat requirements when their life histories and foraging behaviour are completely different. Swift Parrot forages in trees on flowers and psyllid lerps in Eucalyptus species (TSSC 2016). Superb Parrot feed mostly on the ground, where they take a variety of native and introduced seeds (TSSC 2016a).	Reduce by up to 80%
Superb Parrot (Polytelis swainsonii)	Vulnerable		
Pink-tailed Worm Lizard (Aprasia parapulchella)	Vulnerable	*The proposed action may result in clearing of potential habitat for these two species.* NOTE: Initial assessment appears inadequate – Pink-tailed Worm Lizard assessed with Striped Legless Lizard but the two have different habitat requirements (TSSC 2015, TSSC 2016b).	Reduce by up to 80%
Striped Legless Lizard (Delma impar)	Vulnerable		
Koala (Phascolarctos cinereus)	Endangered (QLD, NSW, ACT)	*The proposed action would result in the clearing of known and potential habitat, including koala use trees (used for sheltering, dispersal, foraging and potentially breeding).*	Reduce by up to 80%
Greater Glider (Petauroides volans)	Endangered	*This species has been observed during survey and field verification of the extent of habitat is subject to further field surveys in 2022.* [...] *While efforts would be made to minimise or avoid hollow bearing trees, it is likely that hollows and other features would be removed from potential Glider habitat.*	Reduce by up to 80%
Golden Sun Moth (Synemon plana)	Vulnerable	*The proposed action may result in clearing of large areas of potential habitat for the Golden Sun Moth.*	Reduce by up to 80%

2. Use of Horizontal directional drilling

Horizontal directional drilling (HDD) is a construction method commonly used to avoid impacts on sensitive areas such as waterways, wetlands, sensitive vegetation and cultural heritage (Figure 2). HDD involves drilling a tunnel under an obstacle rather than digging a trench from the surface (as seen in Figure 1). HDD is also used to install cables under roads and other built environment. By avoiding open trenching, HDD further reduces the impacts of habitat loss and fragmentation.

HDD can only be used for underground infrastructure. This method of avoiding and minimising impacts is not available for overhead transmission lines. HDD still needs to be carefully managed to minimise impacts at the start, end and during the drilling and there are likely to engineering constraints in very steep terrain.

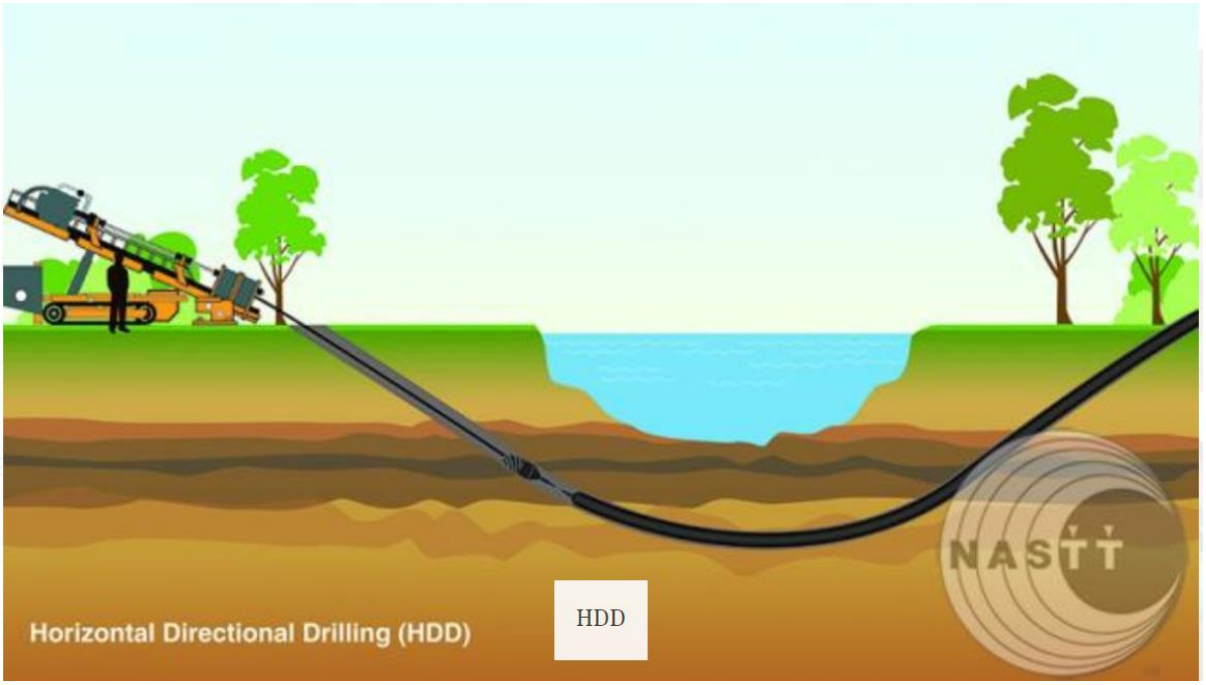


Figure 2. Horizontal directional drilling used to minimise impacts on rivers and sensitive vegetation. Source: NASTT

3. Co-location within existing easements

Underground transmission lines can be located within exiting transmission corridors, utilities easements, transport corridors and under roads. Co-location minimises the need for new land clearing and so minimises impacts on threatened species habitat and native vegetation.

Figure 3. Underground transmission line being installed within existing transmission easement. Source: Renewables Grid Initiative

4. Reduced need to clear vegetation on an on-going basis

Overhead transmission lines require a 70 – 80 m easement to be managed for vegetation for the entire life of the infrastructure (Figure 4). Underground transmission lines would reduce the amount of vegetation management and associated disturbance to trees and wildlife by 80% due to the reduced width of underground easements.

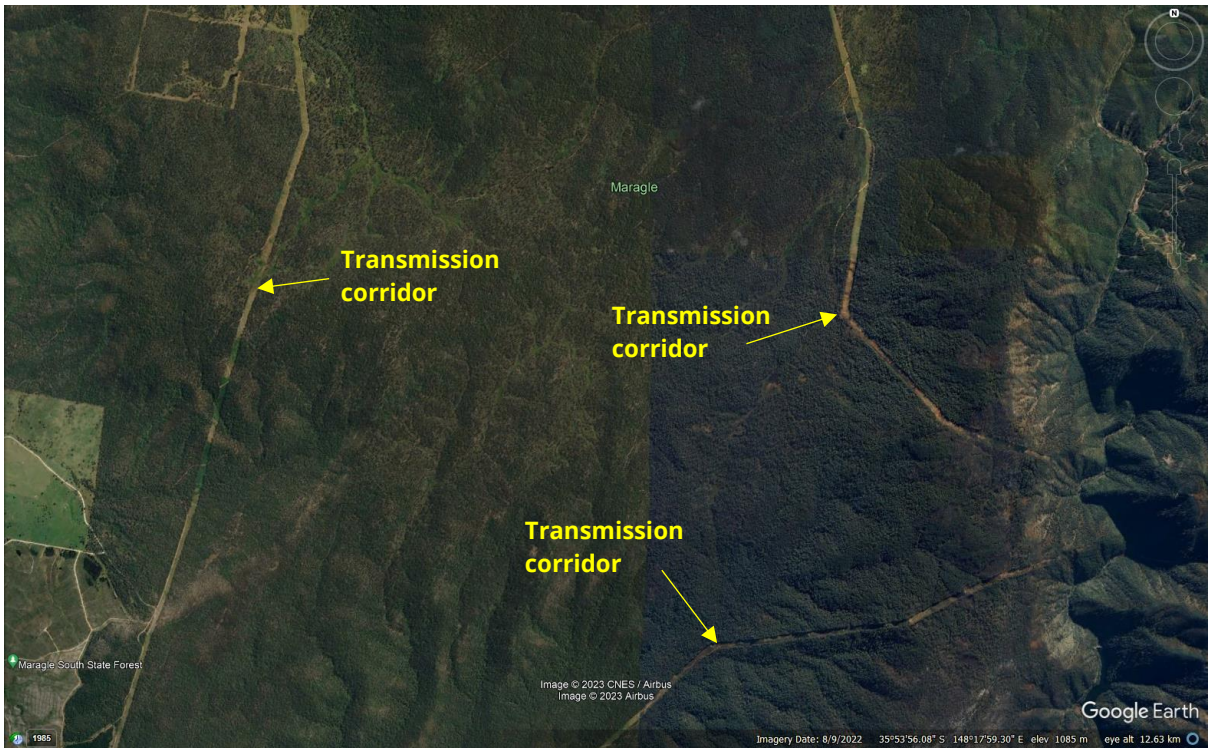
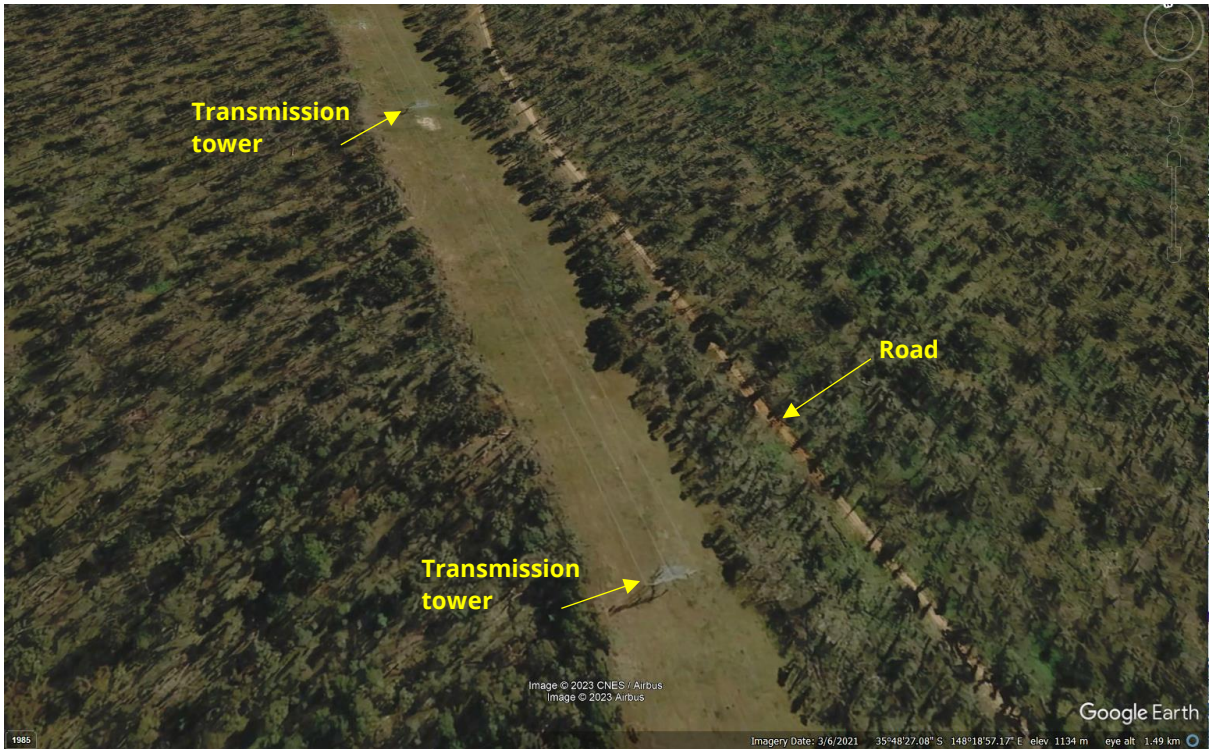


Figure 4 (above and below). Google Earth images of overhead transmission corridors constantly cleared of vegetation at Maragle in the Kozciuszko National Park. Notice how much wider the transmission corridors are compared with the road.



Conclusion

My professional opinion is that the environmental impact assessment for Humelink to date has been inadequate for the scale of the impacts proposed. The impact assessment does not comply with requirements under the EPBC Act to avoid and mitigate impacts on protected matters. The EPBC referral and associated impact assessment contain errors in assessing habitat requirements for some threatened species suggesting external expertise is required to review the assessment.

When combined, the upgrades to the transmission network across south eastern Australia are going to amount to one of the biggest environmental impacts in recent history. Regulators and parliamentarians need to hold the developer to account rather than accept the excuses and laziness currently dressed up as economics.

Yours sincerely,

Shana Nerenberg.
Botanist and registered native vegetation assessor

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Figure 1. Tennet 535 kV underground cable construction: https://netztransparenz.tennet.eu/tinyurl-storage/detail/suedostlink-first-award-of-contract-for-plastic-insulated-underground-cable-for-525-kilovolts/

Figure 2. Horizontal Directional Drilling diagram: https://nastt.org/resources/photos/hdd/

Figure 3. Underground cable construction: https://renewables-grid.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/Files_RGI/Event_material/Prospects_of_undergrounding_power_lines/2017_RGI_workshop_underground_cables_Volker_Wendt_Europacable.pdf

Figure 4. Google Earth © 2023