

| Item No.                      | EIS Section                                                     | Reference                                             | Source Wording                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Concern                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |     |                       |                      |                   |                  |         |     |     |               |         |     |     |                               |         |     |       |             |         |     |     |                     |         |     |     |       |           |       |     |
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| 1                             | Agricultural Impact Assessment EIS Technical Report 4           | Report                                                | Throughout whole report by Tremain Ivey Advisor: (Peter Tremain)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | lack of individual assessment of the Humelink project - is very much a cut and paste of other reports also written for Transgrid's other projects - eg: Energy Connect West, Energy Connect East. There is a lot of general background information in the template style report, much at a very high level (eg per LGA) which is not relevant to the wide variety of agricultural operations and the Humelink project. many conclusions are based on averages, assumptions and estimates.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | The report is not sufficiently individualised to capture the impact of the project accurately on the wide variety of agriculture across the area                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |     |                       |                      |                   |                  |         |     |     |               |         |     |     |                               |         |     |       |             |         |     |     |                     |         |     |     |       |           |       |     |
| 2                             | Agricultural Impact Assessment EIS Technical Report 4 p 22      | 4.1 Overview of approach                              | The methodology for the agricultural impact assessment included the following • landowner consultations and property inspections                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Seven property inspections across the entire footprint is not representative and were a convenience sample provided by TG. The landowners were not advised by Transgrid of the true purpose of the "consultations and property inspections" and that the visit by the "agricultural specialists" was for the purpose of the EIS agricultural impact assessment. Landowners were led to believe it was an opportunity to give information to better inform route realignments that may take the project off their property.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | landowners should have been fully informed of the purpose and implications of the visit, conduct by Transgrid was deceptive                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |     |                       |                      |                   |                  |         |     |     |               |         |     |     |                               |         |     |       |             |         |     |     |                     |         |     |     |       |           |       |     |
| 3                             | TR 4   HumeLink   Agricultural Impact Assessment p 48           | 5.5.4 Value of agricultural production                | The value of agricultural production loss is assessed at \$590 per hectare (refer to Section 5.5.4 –2020-21 values). Across the 568 hectares of agricultural land directly impacted by construction, this equates to a total agricultural production loss of \$335,120 per annum. Allowing for an average 2.5-year period of disruption across all work sites, the total loss of agricultural production is estimated at approximately \$837,800.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Concluding an absolute value of \$590 per hectare / \$837,800 in total, (using 2020-2021 values), for an industry with significant fluctuations, comprising approximately 1,650,215 ha, 2,095 separate agricultural businesses spread across 5 LGAs, is quite meaningless in this context, even if the figures and methodology used could be shown to be correct. The methodology makes no attempt to allow for the different average values of the different industries or even the different average values of agriculture in different LGAs, or for the different proportions of the HumeLink project in the different LGAs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <table><caption>Table 5-8<br/>Total area of agricultural holdings 2020-21</caption><thead><tr><th>LGA</th><th>Area of holdings (ha)</th><th>Number of businesses</th><th>Average size (ha)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Wagga Wagga City</td><td>444,995</td><td>463</td><td>961</td></tr><tr><td>Snowy Valleys</td><td>236,493</td><td>421</td><td>562</td></tr><tr><td>Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional</td><td>338,839</td><td>285</td><td>1,189</td></tr><tr><td>Yass Valley</td><td>242,441</td><td>340</td><td>713</td></tr><tr><td>Upper Lachlan Shire</td><td>387,447</td><td>586</td><td>661</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>1,650,215</td><td>2,095</td><td>788</td></tr></tbody></table> | LGA | Area of holdings (ha) | Number of businesses | Average size (ha) | Wagga Wagga City | 444,995 | 463 | 961 | Snowy Valleys | 236,493 | 421 | 562 | Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional | 338,839 | 285 | 1,189 | Yass Valley | 242,441 | 340 | 713 | Upper Lachlan Shire | 387,447 | 586 | 661 | Total | 1,650,215 | 2,095 | 788 |
| LGA                           | Area of holdings (ha)                                           | Number of businesses                                  | Average size (ha)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |     |                       |                      |                   |                  |         |     |     |               |         |     |     |                               |         |     |       |             |         |     |     |                     |         |     |     |       |           |       |     |
| Wagga Wagga City              | 444,995                                                         | 463                                                   | 961                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |     |                       |                      |                   |                  |         |     |     |               |         |     |     |                               |         |     |       |             |         |     |     |                     |         |     |     |       |           |       |     |
| Snowy Valleys                 | 236,493                                                         | 421                                                   | 562                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |     |                       |                      |                   |                  |         |     |     |               |         |     |     |                               |         |     |       |             |         |     |     |                     |         |     |     |       |           |       |     |
| Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional | 338,839                                                         | 285                                                   | 1,189                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |     |                       |                      |                   |                  |         |     |     |               |         |     |     |                               |         |     |       |             |         |     |     |                     |         |     |     |       |           |       |     |
| Yass Valley                   | 242,441                                                         | 340                                                   | 713                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |     |                       |                      |                   |                  |         |     |     |               |         |     |     |                               |         |     |       |             |         |     |     |                     |         |     |     |       |           |       |     |
| Upper Lachlan Shire           | 387,447                                                         | 586                                                   | 661                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |     |                       |                      |                   |                  |         |     |     |               |         |     |     |                               |         |     |       |             |         |     |     |                     |         |     |     |       |           |       |     |
| Total                         | 1,650,215                                                       | 2,095                                                 | 788                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |     |                       |                      |                   |                  |         |     |     |               |         |     |     |                               |         |     |       |             |         |     |     |                     |         |     |     |       |           |       |     |
| 3                             | as above                                                        | as above                                              | The average gross value of production in the Wagga Wagga City LGA (\$748 per hectare) was enhanced by its extensive cropping enterprises. There was also a large difference between the average value of broadacre cropping production (\$1,100 per hectare), horticulture production (approximately \$88,800 per hectare) and grazing production (\$418 per hectare). The value of agricultural production is greatly influenced by seasonal and market conditions and can fluctuate widely from year to year.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | The Snowy Valley LGA was assessed as having the highest gross average value of agricultural production per ha (\$838 per ha), as containing the least agricultural hectares, and to be impacted by the longest section of the Humelink corridor (approximately a third of the total 360 km project corridor). This suggests that agriculture in Snowy Valleys could be disproportionately affected compared to other LGAs, and the methodology used in the agricultural assessment makes no attempt to measure this and underestimates the impact.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | The EIS agricultural assessment report is deficient in this area, using poor methodology that underestimates the value of agricultural production loss and does not reveal the true level of impact. If this is the case with such a simple concept, the reliability of the whole assessment should be re-examined for similar issues with validity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |     |                       |                      |                   |                  |         |     |     |               |         |     |     |                               |         |     |       |             |         |     |     |                     |         |     |     |       |           |       |     |
| 4                             | TR 4   HumeLink   Agricultural Impact Assessment 56             | 6.7 Impacts on livestock enterprises                  | The removal of vegetation from the easement may have a major impact on the available shade or shelter in a few areas. In most cases, there would be sufficient shade and shelter remaining to meet livestock requirements. In affected areas, grazing management may need to be modified (for example, undertaking lambing in alternative more sheltered paddocks) and replacement shade and shelter vegetation may need to be established. <b>The overall impact on livestock productivity is expected to be small</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | In relation to this important issue of stock welfare and vegetation removal, opinion-based statements such as <b>"the overall impact is expected to be small"</b> and <b>"in most cases, there would be sufficient shade"</b> , without evidence to support them, are not sufficient to rely on to draw conclusions for an EIS assessment. The impact of vegetation removal on individual landholdings could range from inconsequential to profound, but the methodology and high-level data used in the analysis and assessment do not allow this to be investigate.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | when using such big picture data as LGA level, the report conclusions cannot be relied upon for assessment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |     |                       |                      |                   |                  |         |     |     |               |         |     |     |                               |         |     |       |             |         |     |     |                     |         |     |     |       |           |       |     |
| 5                             | TR 4   HumeLink   Agricultural Impact Assessment p 57           | 6.7 Impacts on livestock enterprises                  | Considerable disruption to livestock enterprises (such livestock deaths, illness and stress; disease spread; mixing of animals and uncontrolled breeding) is possible if stock water pipelines or fences are damaged and not promptly repaired during construction, or if gates are left open. Grazing management would also be disrupted if construction activities result in paddocks being temporarily unavailable for grazing, or cause a disruption to the grazing pattern of livestock.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Despite possible impacts being rated as considerable, there are no conclusions drawn, no mitigation measures suggested or value estimated.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | this is a notable deficit in the assessment and needs to be rectified                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |     |                       |                      |                   |                  |         |     |     |               |         |     |     |                               |         |     |       |             |         |     |     |                     |         |     |     |       |           |       |     |
| 6                             | TR 4   HumeLink   Agricultural Impact Assessment Section 9_p 73 | 9 Management of impacts                               | The mitigation measures that would be implemented to avoid or minimise potential agricultural impacts are listed in Table 9-1.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | The entire mitigation measures for the agricultural impact of Humelink are minimal (see Table 9-1) : basically <b>advise</b> the landowner about where tracks and structures will be constructed, build the minimum number of tracks, develop a property management plan, open and close gates as landowner directs, follow current TransGrid procedures for biosecurity, talk to the landowner about these and notify authorities if monitoring shows a new weed infestation. And if landowners tell Transgrid within 12 months that their GPS equipment is affected, "practical rectification measures" will be considered. And it is really not clear what is meant by the mitigation measure for Agricultural Impacts: "Alternative technologies that could enable weed control close to the transmission lines will be considered". Does this mean Transgrid will buy landowners a drone? | The mitigation measures are very general, do not relate to all the different potential impacts on agriculture mentioned in the report, and are really not of the quality expected from an "agricultural specialist" consultant.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |     |                       |                      |                   |                  |         |     |     |               |         |     |     |                               |         |     |       |             |         |     |     |                     |         |     |     |       |           |       |     |
| 7                             | Agricultural Impact Assessment EIS Technical Report 4           | TR 4   HumeLink   Agricultural Impact Assessment p 57 | <b>6.8 Biophysical strategic agricultural land</b><br>The area of BSAL within the project footprint would be 447 hectares. This is equivalent to 5.2 per cent of the total project footprint.<br><b>The impact on BSAL would be minor due to the small area involved and because agricultural production would only be temporarily lost</b> on most of this area during construction and for a limited time afterwards.<br><b>Most of the area would be rehabilitated</b> (if required) and returned to its former land use after construction is completed or as agreed with the landowner. <b>There would be small areas with long term impacts due to permanent structures.</b><br><br>Mapping of BSAL was undertaken by the then NSW Department of Planning and Environment. This mapping indicates that there is some BSAL in the agricultural study area (refer to Figure 5-4), as follows:<br>• <b>small areas south-west of Adelong</b> | While the study has identified very limited BSAL and SSAL land within the footprint, the yellow area where the footprint crosses the area in the picture, southwest of Adelong, is the only BSAL and SSAL land in the Adelong area. This scarcity increases the value of the land and makes the potential impacts of the project more significant.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | This scenario has not been addressed in the assessment and should be My family property and those of our neighbours who are affected by Humelink also lie within this area of rare BSAL / SSAL land. This is yet another thing that the EIS Agricultural Assessment has not included in the assessment and it should be looked at again                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |     |                       |                      |                   |                  |         |     |     |               |         |     |     |                               |         |     |       |             |         |     |     |                     |         |     |     |       |           |       |     |
| 7                             | Agricultural Impact Assessment EIS Technical Report 4           | TR 4   HumeLink   Agricultural Impact Assessment p 57 | 6.9 Draft State significant agricultural land<br><br>The area of draft SSAL within the project footprint would be 534 hectares. This is equivalent to 6.2 percent of the total project footprint. This is 19.5 per cent higher than the amount of BSAL. As for BSAL, the <b>impact on SSAL would be minor due to the small area involved and the temporary impact</b> on most of this area during construction. Most of the area <b>would be rehabilitated</b> (if required) but there would be <b>small areas with permanent impacts</b> due to the location of permanent structures.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | While the study has identified very limited BSAL and SSAL land within the footprint, the yellow area where the footprint crosses the area in the picture, southwest of Adelong, is the only BSAL and SSAL land in the Adelong area. This scarcity increases the value of the land and makes the potential impacts of the project more significant.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | This scenario has not been addressed in the assessment and should be My family property and those of our neighbours who are affected by Humelink also lie within this area of rare BSAL / SSAL land. This is yet another thing that the EIS Agricultural Assessment has not included in the assessment and it should be looked at again                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |     |                       |                      |                   |                  |         |     |     |               |         |     |     |                               |         |     |       |             |         |     |     |                     |         |     |     |       |           |       |     |
| 8                             | TR 4   HumeLink   Agricultural Impact Assessment p 57           | TR 4   HumeLink   Agricultural Impact Assessment p 57 | Other parts of the project footprint, such as permanent access tracks, are likely to affect soil characteristics to the extent that these locations would no longer be productive cropping or pasture areas. This would greatly reduce land and soil capability in these locations, but they comprise only a small percentage of the agricultural study area                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | while this resulting permanently degraded land may only compose a small percentage of the project footprint or of the LGA or NSW, etc, such statements and conclusions do not address the fact that                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | The impact on land and soil capability should not be so summarily dismissed on this, as there is no consideration that the impact on particular land holdings could be very significant, depending on the land, the holding size, the soil, the amount of infrastructure, the location, etc. Highly detailed data is available (and included in the EIS) that would allow an agricultural specialist to easily look into the possible effects on specific land holdings. The EIS Agricultural assessment should be reviewed to assess this more fully before determinations can be made.                                                                                                           |     |                       |                      |                   |                  |         |     |     |               |         |     |     |                               |         |     |       |             |         |     |     |                     |         |     |     |       |           |       |     |

Table 9-1  
Mitigation measures – agriculture

| Impact                  | Environmental safeguard                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Timing                           | Relevant location(s) |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Direct land use impacts | The location of infrastructure, work sites and access tracks (temporary and permanent) will be confirmed in consultation with landowners. Where permanent tracks are required, a single access track will be designed to serve both temporary and permanent purposes, where possible.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Detailed design and construction | All locations        |
| Property impacts        | A property management plan will be developed for directly impacted properties in consultation with landowners and stakeholders. The property management plans will outline the protocols that will be implemented to address landowner concerns during construction. This may include:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>the process for rectification of any damage to property infrastructure caused by construction</li><li>the process for rehabilitation and stabilisation of disturbed areas following the completion of construction</li><li>measures to minimise disruption to agricultural practices during construction</li><li>any fencing and gate requirements</li><li>specific biosecurity protocols.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Detailed design and construction | All locations        |
| Agricultural impacts    | Alternative technologies which could enable weed control close to the transmission lines will be considered.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Detailed design and construction | All locations        |
| Biosecurity             | Biosecurity controls will be implemented to minimise the risk of off-site transport or spread of disease, pests or weeds. Controls will be in accordance with Transgrid's <i>Biosecurity Procedure and Biosecurity Environmental Guidance Note</i> and include development of specific controls if high biosecurity risks are identified. Appropriate measures will be implemented with respect to foot and mouth disease to control any risk of introduction via the project.<br><br>The specific controls applicable to a property will be identified in consultation with the affected landowner. The effectiveness of these controls will be monitored in a manner and time interval consistent with the level of risk on each property.<br><br>In the event of new infestations of notifiable weeds as a result of construction activities, the relevant control authority will be notified as per <i>Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW)</i> and <i>Biosecurity Regulation 2017</i> . | Construction and operation       | All locations        |
| Access impacts          | Management of access on private landowner properties required for access to infrastructure for maintenance, including opening and closing of gates, will be done in accordance with landowner requirements.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Operation                        | Transmission line    |

| Impact      | Environmental safeguard                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Timing    | Relevant location(s) |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| GPS impacts | If adverse effects on agricultural precision farming (using GPS) is reported within 12 months of operation, practical rectification measures (including signal boosting equipment or antenna enhancement) will be considered. This will be carried out in consultation with the relevant landowners. | Operation | Transmission line    |

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| 9  | EIS Main Body; Executive Summary: Background (multiple reports)               | SEARS                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | According to the SEARS, the EIS must contain "detailed evaluation of the merits of the project as a whole".                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | According to the SEARS, the EIS must contain a "detailed evaluation of the merits of the project as a whole".<br>There is a short, identical summary of what Transgrid asserts are the "benefits" of the project at the start of every technical report (see cell below for example). But there is little in the way of detailed, data-backed evaluation of the project merits, mostly general high-level 'feel good' statements, such as improving efficiency, support, facilitating the development of renewables, etc. Some statistics are provided about expected short-term opportunities, and the social impact assessment claims that on the whole, there will be q positive social impact of the project, if a range of mitigation strategies are implements.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | The Humelink EIS is extraordinarily deficient in terms of its justification of the merits of the project as a whole. For a gigantic document consisting of thousands upon thousands of pages, just 24 pages are allocated to this element of the EIS, with three and a half of these pages being maps/diagrams of the project footprint. In comparison, there are 37 pages taken up by the document Index, Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 9  | EIS Main Body; Executive Summary: Background (multiple reports)               | as above and                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>EXAMPLE</b> Technical Report Executive Summary: Background                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Transgrid proposes to increase the energy network capacity in southern New South Wales (NSW) through the development of around 360 kilometres of new high-voltage transmission lines and associated infrastructure between Wagga Wagga, Bannaby and Maragle. This project is collectively referred to as HumeLink. HumeLink would connect to existing substations near Wagga Wagga and Bannaby. In addition, HumeLink would connect to a future substation at Maragle in the Snowy Mountains (referred to as the future Maragle 500 kV substation), which is subject to a separate major project assessment and approval (reference SSI-9717, EPBC, 2018/836). The project would support the transfer of energy from existing renewable generation as well as facilitate the development of new renewable generation in the Wagga Wagga and Tumut Renewable Energy Zones (REZs). The project would provide the required support for the network in southern NSW, allowing for the increase in transfer capacity between new renewable generation sources and the State's demand centres of Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong. The project would also improve the efficiency and reliability of the current energy transfer in this part of the network. Furthermore, HumeLink would form a key part of the transmission line infrastructure that supports the transfer of energy within the National Electricity Market (NEM) by connecting with other major interconnectors. The NEM incorporates around 40,000 kilometres of transmission lines across Queensland, NSW, Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Benefits stated as:<br>- support the transfer of energy from existing renewable generation<br>- improve the efficiency and reliability of the current energy transfer in this part of the network.<br>- form a key part of the transmission line infrastructure that supports the transfer of energy within the National Electricity Market<br>- facilitate the development of new renewable generation in the Wagga Wagga and Tumut Renewable Energy Zones (despite these being not yet actually REZs)<br><br>The Humelink project has been classified as a project of state significance, thus allowing many shortcuts in the planning and approval process. But this should not give it a free pass and be approved without having to meet the SEARS requirements. If the SEARS requires a "detailed" analysis of the project, Transgrid MUST provide sufficient details. |
| 9  | Technical report 7 Social Impact Assessment                                   | p vii Social Impact Assessment                                                                                                                                                                                                  | The SIA identified a range of social impacts, both positive and negative. All negative impacts assessed in this SIA can be reasonably mitigated throughout planning and development. Most of the negative social impacts predicted to arise from the project would occur during the construction period and are therefore, temporary. Most construction impacts are of low or medium significance once mitigation measures have been applied. Construction and operation of the project is considered likely to have negative residual social impacts arising from impacts to the visual landscape and scenic quality of parts of the social locality. These negative impacts need to be balanced against the significant positive social impacts of the project through increased employment, opportunities for skills acquisition and support for local businesses throughout the life of the project. In addition, the project would deliver opportunities for improved productivity, social connections and way of life through providing reliable and affordable electricity.<br><b>Overall, with the range of proposed mitigations in place, the project is expected to have an overall positive social impact</b> | if the best that can be claimed by the proponents of a project is that with mitigation measures, social outcomes will be overall positive, it is not a ringing endorsement of the merits of the Humelink project. "Overall positive" implies that for some stakeholders there will be no positive outcomes and for some possible negative impacts                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | as above                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 10 | HumeLink Environmental Impact Statement (Main Body EIS) Section 6. Engagement | SEARS Requirement: a description of the engagement that was carried out during the preparation of the EIS, the key issues raised during this engagement and the proposed engagement strategy for the project if it is approved; | Minutes from two separate CCG meetings held in October 2022                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | The consultation process has been flawed and documentation of the process has been manipulated by Transgrid to promote the company agenda. documentations of consultations are often imprecise, incorrect and edited and cannot be relied upon as accurate records of the consultation process. Despite having the resources of a large company available, Transgrid also was always slow to respond with written correspondence, tardy to provide meeting minutes for checking, late with providing minutes and documentation prior to meetings which placed the community at a disadvantage. <b>See Below comparison of separate individual minutes - identical</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | There are multiple other examples, but the clearly incorrect recording of conversations in the October 2022 CCG meetings is a good illustration. On later talking with representatives from the Yass CCG we established that while there were some similarities between topics discussed at the two meetings, the conversation and questions asked were by no means identical as is suggested in the official record. The comment about "landowners not being stupid" was made by me at the Snowy Valley's CCG and I was not present at the Yass meeting.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 10 | HumeLink Environmental Impact Statement (Main Body EIS) Section 6. Engagement | SEARS Requirement: a description of the engagement that was carried out during the preparation of the EIS, the key issues raised during this engagement and the proposed engagement strategy for the project if it is approved; | Minutes from the HumeLink Upper Lachlan Yass Valley Community Consultative Group: 7th Meeting 11 October 2022 pp 8-10                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Inadequate/incorrect / false record keeping in relation to engagement and consultation. Example extract from CCG minutes</b> (comparing minutes from Yass Valley CCG with Snowy valleys CCG). Naomi responded that the current process is for landowners to request the concept location of the towers. - A CCG member commented that landowners should already have the information about tower locations, and it should have been provided from the outset. Naomi noted that the action from the last CCG meeting to better communicate tower locations has revealed a gap in Transgrid's process, and they are working through how it can be done in a more proactive sense. Transgrid needs to be able to capture all the available information which has taken longer than expected. All the preliminary information about the concept tower locations needs to be recorded and passed on so the design process can be confirmed, that process is yet to be confirmed. - Nathan noted that tower location conversation occurs during the land acquisition process. Information will not be shared until landowners have received a letter of offer. A CCG member commented that all the information and the processes spoken about is very vague. It was noted the CCG member had received a letter of offer and a confusing desktop map, and yet Transgrid has not had a conversation about tower locations. - The Chair asked when Transgrid will more generally reveal tower locations. - Naomi responded that she needs to further understand the recording mechanism that feeds into the design process. - A CCG member asked what the recording mechanism is that is causing the issue. - Naomi responded that the tower locations are indicative where assumptions are made around distancing. Information is then collected from landowners about specific operations or needs they have. That information is exchanged via the place managers. Transgrid needs to be able to track and record what is happening on particular properties to be fed into consideration for the design on each property. <b>A CCG member commented that it would be useful for all landowners to have the preliminary information informing the tower locations. In the Finkle Review, the importance of open government data was discussed. Through making the information available to landowners, they can then respond. There will be some landowners who have not engaged with the process at all yet, but through making the information available, landowners will get in touch to discuss the tower locations. Being secretive about the tower locations prevents the opportunity to engage with landowners who have not yet been forthcoming. Build an understanding with landowners about where they do not want the locations and qualify it.</b> - Naomi responded that feedback was said is helpful, however it is important to note that if one change occurs, it will impact the locations of all the following towers. It is important to ensure there are enough caveats around the location. <b>- A CCG member commented that landowners are not stupid, and they understand that moving a tower will have flow on effects and you can explain that when you release the data.</b> The Chair outlined a basic process that Transgrid could follow to better communicate with landowners: 1. Transgrid to provide indicative tower locations to landowners 2. Transgrid to meet with landowners, and create a mechanism to obtain further information/data to inform the design process 3. Ensure the feedback loop with landowners is closed and explain why a certain action cannot be delivered. - A CCG member commented that they would have thought Transgrid would have already had a mechanism to capture that data. - Naomi noted that there is a mechanism to capture it, however, there needs to be a better process to anchor it to the tower locations. | See above comment. Identical minutes from different CCG meetings purporting to be a true and accurate copy of the proceedings and proof of stakeholder consultation. These minutes are relied upon by TG and stakeholders to prove many things, but this is just one example, to go with the many times when stakeholders have asserted that TG has been deceptive or manipulative or even just plain careless in their processes. Transgrid's record of community consultation has been abysmal and examples such as these show evidence provided by TG to prove they have properly consulted as per the EIS requirements cannot be taken as definitive. Further investigation and evidence is required before the EIS can be assessed properly and Transgrid should be censured for their poor performance in this regard                                                  |

5.4.3 Draft State significant agricultural land SSAL has certain biophysical characteristics, whi

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| 10 | HumeLink Environmental Impact Statement (Main Body EIS) Section 6. Engagement | SEARS Requirement: a description of the engagement that was carried out during the preparation of the EIS, the key issues raised during this engagement and the proposed engagement strategy for the project if it is approved; | and the Minutes from the Snowy Valley Community Consultative Group: 7th Meeting 11 October 2022 pp 6-8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p><b>Inadequate/incorrect / false record keeping in relation to engagement and consultation. Example extract from CCG minutes (comparing minutes from Snowy Valleys CCG with Yass Valley CCG)</b> Naomi responded that the current process is for landowners to request the concept location of the towers. A CCG member commented that landowners should already have the information about tower locations, and it should have been provided from the outset. - Naomi noted that the action from the last CCG meeting to better communicate tower locations has revealed a gap in Transgrid's process, and they are working through how it can be done in a more proactive sense. Transgrid needs to be able to capture all the available information which has taken longer than expected. All the preliminary information about the concept tower locations needs to be recorded and passed on so the design process can be confirmed, that process is yet to be confirmed. Nathan noted that tower location conversation occurs during the land acquisition process. Information wont be shared until landowners have received a letter of offer. - A CCG member commented that all the information and they the processes are spoken about is very vague. It was noted the CCG member had received a letter of offer and a confusing desktop map, and yet Transgrid has not had a conversation about tower locations. The Chair asked when Transgrid will more generally reveal tower locations. - Naomi responded that she needs to further understand the recording 7 mechanism that feeds into the design process. - A CCG member asked what the recording mechanism is that is causing the issue. - Naomi responded that the tower locations are indicative where assumptions are made around distancing. Information is then collected from landowners about specific operations or needs they have. That information is exchanged via the place managers. 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Build an understanding with landowners about where they do not want the locations and qualify it. - Naomi responded that was has been said is helpful, however it is important to note that if one change occurs, it will impact the locations of all the following towers. It is important to ensure there are enough caveats around the location. - A CCG member commented that landowners are not stupid and they understand that moving a tower will have flow on effects and you can explain that when you releasee the data. - The Chair outlined a basic process that Transgrid could follow to better communicate with landowners: 1. Transgrid to provide indicative tower locations to landowners 2. Transgrid to meet with landowners, and create a mechanism obtain 8 further information/data to inform the design process 3. Ensure the feedback loop with landowners is closed and explaining why if a certain action cannot be delivered. - A CCG member commented that they would have through Transgrid would have already had a mechanism to capture that data. - Naomi noted that there is a mechanism to capture it, however, there needs to be a better process to anchor it to the tower locations</p> | See above comment. Identical minutes from different CCG meetings purporting to be a true and accurate copy of the proceedings and proof of stakeholder consultation. These minutes are relied upon by TG and stakeholders to prove many things, but this is just one example, to go with the many times when stakeholders have asserted that TG has been deceptive or manipulative or even just plain careless in their processes. Transgrid's record of community consultation has been abysmal and examples such as these show evidence provided by TG to prove they have properly consulted as per the EIS requirements cannot be taken as definitive. Further investigation and evidence is required before the EIS can be assessed properly and Transgrid should be censured for their poor performance in this regard |
| 11 | TR 4   HumeLink   Agricultural Impact Assessment p 16                         | 2.2.4 Construction plant and equipment                                                                                                                                                                                          | An indicative list of construction plant and equipment likely to be required during construction is provided below. • air compressor • backhoe • bobcat • bulldozers • concrete agitator • concrete pump • cranes (various sizes up to 400 tonnes) • crawler crane with grab attachments • drill and blast units and associated support plant/equipment • drones • dumper trucks • elevated working platforms • excavators (various sizes) • flatbed hiab trucks • fuel trucks • generators • graders • helicopters and associated support plant/equipment • mulchers • piling rig • pneumatic jackhammers • rigid tipplers • rollers (10 to 15 and 12-15 tonnes) • semi-trailers • tilt tray trucks • trenchers • transport trucks • watercarts • winches                                                                                                                                            | How can this amount of equipment, carried in this number of vehicles and with the required number of workers have no significant effects on local roads, rural properties, soil and pasture, native and domestic animals, etc? and driven but the not have an effect on a rural property?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 11 | TR 4   HumeLink   Agricultural Impact Assessment p 16                         | 2.2.5 Construction traffic                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Construction vehicle movements would comprise vehicles transporting equipment, waste, materials and spoil, as well as workers' vehicles. A larger number of heavy vehicles would be required during the main civil construction work associated with the substations. Non-standard or oversized loads would also be required for the substitution work (e.g. for transformer transport) and transportation of transmission line structure materials and conductors. Hume Highway, Sturt Highway, Snowy Mountains Highway, Batlow Road and Gocup Road are the main national and state roads proposed to provide access to the project footprint. These roads would be supported by regional and local roads throughout the Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Wagga Wagga City, Snowy Valleys, Yass Valley, Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional and Upper Lachlan Shire that connect to the project footprint. | How can this amount of equipment, carried in this number of vehicles and with the required number of workers have no significant effects on local roads, rural properties, soil and pasture, native and domestic animals, etc? and driven but the not have an effect on a rural property?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 12 | TR 8   HumeLink   Landscape Character and Visual Impact Assessment            | TABLE 6-1: SUMMARY OF LANDSCAPE IMPACTS                                                                                                                                                                                         | Rural fringe landscape character zone<br>Great Dividing Range foothills landscape character zone<br>Rural valleys landscape character zone<br>Forested hills landscape character zone<br>Undulating rural hills and ridges landscape character zone<br>Upland forest landscape character zone<br>Rural tablelands landscape character zone<br>Rural highland and deep valley landscape character zone<br>- The moderate impacts would be on the Great Dividing Range and Upland Forest landscape character zones where there is greater vegetation removal and temporary construction activities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Although the authors of the Visual Assessment report have put a lot of work and detail into it, there are a number of issues apparent. One is that in attempting to categorize such a large and geographically disparate project, the report has classified all properties as fitting into one of these, and some are incorrectly classified. More of a concern is that assumptions have been made on the degree of visual impact experienced by properties, based on partly on their classification of landscape zone. This means errors have been made as to the degree of visual impact.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 13 | TR 8   HumeLink   Landscape Character and Visual Impact Assessment p 65       | TR 8   HumeLink   Landscape Character and Visual Impact Assessment p   38                                                                                                                                                       | 4: Identify mitigation measures. • Identify any opportunities to reduce the visual impact of the project. Where a more skilful design would reduce the impact, this is described as a mitigation measure. These measures may include considerations relating to the positioning of the structures, or the provision of localised screening vegetation, noting that any mitigation measures would be undertaken in consultation with the landowner.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Mitigation and management measures suggested - vegetation screening - this does not seem likely to work well, given the landscape and the height of the towers. Also, as farmers, most of the day is spent outdoors, so while the view from the residence is very important, to fully assess the impact of the project on us and people like us, there needs to be an assessment of the visual impact from other places such as cattle and sheep yards, shearing sheds and workshops, intensive agricultural areas, etc.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Where there is a potential view to the project from the primary view of a residential dwelling, resulting in a moderate, high-moderate or high visual impact, the placement of the transmission structures should be undertaken in consultation with landowners to minimise visibility and visual impact - while this sounds like a nice idea, its not very likely that the 8-10 towers being proposed for our property will be able to be placed in location to decrease the impact.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

ATTACHMENT H - Visibility of transmission line structures within 2 kilometres (Ellerslie Range to Wondalga)

While my family home is within the visual impact area, my residence is not shown because it is outside the 2 km area, and officially I am not visually impacted. But I have a view of several kilometres of the powerline when looking south from my window, and when we use the viewing point just up from the house where we sit to watch the sunset and take friends and visitors, we will have a full view of 7-8 kilometres of Humlink. This is very upsetting.

TABLE 6-1: SUMMARY OF LANDSCAPE IMPACTS

|                                               |                                                                         |                       | Construction        |                  | Operation           |                  |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|                                               | Landscape character zone                                                | Landscape sensitivity | Magnitude of change | Landscape impact | Magnitude of change | Landscape impact |
| Rural fringe landscape character zone         |                                                                         |                       |                     |                  |                     |                  |
| A                                             | Wagga Wagga rural fringe landscape character area                       | Neighbourhood         | Moderate            | Low              | Moderate            | Low              |
| Great Dividing Range landscape character zone |                                                                         |                       |                     |                  |                     |                  |
| A                                             | Gregadoo Great Dividing Range foothills landscape character area        | Regional              | Moderate            | Moderate         | Moderate            | Moderate         |
| B                                             | Ellerslie Range Great Dividing Range foothills landscape character area | Regional              | Moderate            | Moderate         | Moderate            | Moderate         |

|                                                            |                                                                               | Construction          |                     | Operation        |                     |                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|                                                            | Landscape character zone                                                      | Landscape sensitivity | Magnitude of change | Landscape impact | Magnitude of change | Landscape impact |
| Rural valleys landscape character zone                     |                                                                               |                       |                     |                  |                     |                  |
| A                                                          | Greggale to Book Book rural valleys landscape character area                  | Local                 | Moderate            | Moderate-low     | Moderate            | Moderate-low     |
| B                                                          | Yaven Creek and Adelong Creek rural valleys landscape character area          | Local                 | Moderate            | Moderate-low     | Moderate            | Moderate-low     |
| C                                                          | Tumut rural valleys landscape character area                                  | Local                 | Moderate            | Moderate-low     | Moderate            | Moderate-low     |
| D                                                          | Adelongly rural valleys landscape character area                              | Local                 | Moderate            | Moderate-low     | Moderate            | Moderate-low     |
| E                                                          | Timbarumba rural valleys landscape character area                             | Local                 | Moderate            | Moderate-low     | Nil                 | None             |
| Forested hills landscape character zone                    |                                                                               |                       |                     |                  |                     |                  |
| A                                                          | Green hills forested hills landscape character area                           | Local                 | Low                 | Low              | Low                 | Low              |
| B                                                          | Bago forested hills landscape character area                                  | Local                 | Moderate            | Moderate-low     | Moderate            | Moderate-low     |
| C                                                          | Mitapo forested hills landscape character area                                | Local                 | Moderate            | Moderate-low     | Moderate            | Moderate-low     |
| D                                                          | Red Hill and Bungongo forested hills landscape                                | Local                 | Low                 | Low              | Low                 | Low              |
| Undulating rural hills and ridges landscape character zone |                                                                               |                       |                     |                  |                     |                  |
| A                                                          | Wondalga to Barlow undulating rural hills and ridges landscape character area | Regional              | Moderate            | Moderate         | Moderate            | Moderate         |
| B                                                          | Tumut undulating rural hills and                                              | Regional              | Moderate            | Moderate         | Moderate            | Moderate         |

| Visual impact level | Description (typical indicators of visual impact)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| High                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Potential for an overwhelming reduction in the amenity of the view / or fundamental change in the amenity of the view.</li><li>- May include one or a combination of the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Transmission line structures or substation located in close proximity</li><li>o Transmission line structure(s) obstruct the view to an icon / important landscape feature</li><li>o Transmission line structures of a large height and scale</li><li>o Transmission line route extending across the view with multiple structures visible and affecting a broad horizontal field of view</li><li>o Transmission line route changes direction and may include larger corner structure(s)</li><li>o Transmission line structures prominently located on a ridgeline</li><li>o Limited screening by vegetation or landform</li><li>o Large areas of vegetation removed</li><li>o Prominent new access tracks and / or landform change visible</li><li>o No existing transmission lines visible and limited visibility to other infrastructure, including highways, solar farms, wind turbines etc.</li></ul></li><li>- Primary view from a dwelling, or viewed from multiple primary viewing locations around the dwelling</li><li>- View with moderate to high scenic qualities.</li></ul> |
| High-moderate       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Potential for a substantial reduction in the amenity of the view.</li><li>- Primary view from a dwelling, or view with moderate or high scenic quality</li><li>- May include one or a combination of the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Transmission line structures or substation located in close proximity</li><li>o Transmission line structures of a large height and scale</li></ul></li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

