

Capital Program Delivery

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Mr Chris Wilson
Acting Deputy Director-General
Office of Sustainable Development, Assessment and Approvals
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Your Ref : S03/01284 Pt 1; Y05/3657

Dear Mr Wilson 

Wollar Wellington 330kV Transmission Line – Submissions Report

I refer to your letter dated 20 October 2005 advising of the accreditation of the above project under the Part 3A (Major Projects) provisions of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (the Act) and the acceptance the Environmental Impact Statement that had been prepared in accordance with the Director's Requirements under Part 5 of the Act as the Environmental Assessment (EA) required under Part 3A of the Act.

Please regard this letter as TransGrid's formal application for approval of the development in accordance with s. 75(E) of the Act, subject to the provisions discussed in the final two paragraphs of this letter.

The activity for which TransGrid seeks approval is that defined, described and assessed in the EA. The EA included a Species Impact Statement (SIS) and a Project Environmental Management Plan (PEMP).

In accordance with s.75H(6) of the Act, I am pleased now to submit for the Director-General's consideration a Submissions Report, detailing the consideration given by TransGrid to the issues raised in submissions to the public exhibition of the EA.

The Submissions Report appends a Statement of Commitments (SOC) for your consideration. The SOC brings together the commitments made in the EA, including the PEMP and SIS, and any additional commitments and clarifications made in response to the issues raised in submissions. The PEMP has been updated to reflect the responses and incorporates a more detailed Indigenous Heritage Management Plan. The updated PEMP is also appended to the Submissions Report.

TransGrid considers that no significant modification to the activity is required as a result of the submissions received. Accordingly a Preferred Project Report is not required.

With regard to Wambo Power Ventures' proposed Gas Turbine project at Cobar, as discussed on 20 December 2005, I confirm that TransGrid wishes to progress its application for approval of the transmission line in parallel with the assessment of the viability of the gas turbine proposal. A key part of this assessment, due for completion in September this year, will be to determine the extent (if any) to which the transmission line proposal can be deferred, or indeed replaced, by the Wambo proposal. Sections 1.4 and 4.4.1 of the Submissions Report address this aspect.

TransGrid is obliged to secure the reliability of electricity supply to the western area of the State. If the Cobar gas turbine proposal does not proceed within the time agreed with Wambo, or does not satisfy the security of supply requirements, TransGrid will need to complete easement acquisition and call tenders for the transmission line construction contract with increased urgency. Accordingly, TransGrid wishes to have the Department progress the assessment to the point of determining an agreed position on all issues raised to the exhibition of the EA, excepting only those related to the Wambo proposal, and your prompt attention to this application is therefore respectfully requested.

Yours sincerely



Chris FitzGerald
General Manager/Capital Program Delivery

29/3/06

Attach: