



Re: Bowdens Silver amendment to EIS

Running Stream Water Users Association objects to the proposed realignment of the Transgrid 500kv powerline, for the reasons outlined below.

- The proposed realignment will have a huge negative impact the visual amenity of the region which is a major tourist destination. This issue has not been properly addressed in the EIS.
- It is of great concern that there have been no discussions with the community regarding visual amenity, dust and noise associated with the amendment.
- The fact that the amendment was added even before the Department has released an assessment report is a travesty of the planning process. The realignment should have formed part of the original submission and been properly considered in the EIS. The original EIS was highly flawed and we see a continuation of poor environmental assessment with this amendment.
- Of similar great concern is the fact that this amendment is being considered even though the exact location of the realignment is not known. Yet another travesty of the environmental assessment process.
- The realignment will result in the destruction of 12.6 ha of native vegetation and includes the threatened box gum woodland ecological community. With only 5% of this ecological community left in the Central West, every hectare is precious and should not be removed.
- As mentioned above, inadequate environmental assessment has been done. Of particular concern are large trees with nesting hollows, significant to Barking Owls and Greater Broad Nosed Bats, identified close to the clearing for the transmission line. The importance of tree hollows (particularly large hollows in old trees) should not be underestimated especially following reduced habitat due to the 2019–2020 bushfires.
- Adequate assessment has not been done of the impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage. This is yet another example of the significant negative cumulative impact of mining being ignored.

We understand alternative options for proposed realignment were considered. Should this realignment go ahead, the condition that a route that places the line on lower topography, avoiding the ridge and resulting in less destruction of native vegetation must be enforced. However, this whole project has serious issues relating to water and air pollution and should not be approved at all.

Sincerely, Fiona Sim (President)