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

Dear Sir/Madam,

**SUBMISSION IN RESPONSE TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT OF THE
HUMELINK PROJECT – APPLICATION NO SSI-36656827**

I hereby submit this response to the HumeLink Environmental Impact Statement report.

I object to the HumeLink proposal on a number of grounds, one as follows:

My main points for your consideration,

- **Cultural & Heritage Concerns** – the proposed line will be very close to Mudjarn Nature reserve, the reserve is also known locally as “Pine Mountain” due the locally abundant Black Cypress Pine (*Callitris endlicherii*), which gives the reserve a very dark appearance and makes it stand out from other high points in the area.

Mudjarn Nature Reserve protects areas of remnant native forest, including small pockets of Yellow Box and Red Gum woodland, a component of the endangered White Box - Yellow Box - Blakely's Red Gum woodland community. Nine species of mammal, four frogs, seven reptiles and 153 species of bird have been recorded in the reserve, including six threatened bird species.

Mudjarn Nature Reserve also protects Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, landscapes and other features that have high significance to the local Aboriginal community. Whereas the valleys were a focus for living, the high peaks and hills are associated with ritual. Initiations are known to have occurred within the ranges and hills until the 1920s.

The towers are proposed to be a mere 20-50 m from the boundary of this significant area.

The NSW government need to be protecting areas with such significance from extra fire risk, placing towers this close is a huge risk and moving away or undergrounding needs considering.

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10.1.2 Mudjarn Nature Reserve Mudjarn Nature Reserve is an Aboriginal place about 300 metres from the project. Mudjarn is associated with significant ceremonial sites, burials and a source of natural materials to manufacture traditional weapons and tools. It is the dwelling place of the spirit being Dulargul. Mudjarn represents the long-term occupation of the Wiradjuri, Ngunnawal and Walgalu of the Tumut River Valley. The distance of Mudjarn Nature Reserve from the project footprint means that the indirect visual impact to the significance of this site is assessed to be negligible.

HumeLink Historic Heritage Impact Assessment EIS Technical Report 3

Page 55 - Killimicat was the site of a timber beam bridge across the Tumut River, constructed in 1897, as well as a quarry.¹³⁴ In 2016 it had a population of 29, engaged primarily in grazing.¹³⁵ Figure 5-16 The Pine Mountain from Killimicat Hill on road from Tumut to Gundagai, sunset, 1881136

I have read most of the reports and it is wonderful but the word negligible and indirect visual impact when the project is a mere 300metres and the towers are up to 75m tall the visual impact will be seen from the nature reserve, Pine Mountain and from the Brungle road where we have many people stop to take picture and view the Nature Reserve. The area of amazing cultural and heritage significance.

The Bushfire risk will be significantly higher for the nature reserve as the area is of high lightning strikes. We have lost many trees and some livestock over the past 25 years we have lived there. and the towers will increase the danger to this significant site. One which we need to preserve and the undergrounding of the HumeLink project could really be the best option for all involved.

- I acknowledge and accept the Department of Planning and Environment's disclaimer and declaration.
- Declaration of political donations: **No.**

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J Reynolds."

Jessie Reynolds