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10 October 2023

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

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

As an environmentally aware business owner and President of the local chamber of commerce, I am concerned about the flaws in the HumeLink EIS and Technical Report 6 on economic impact. My objections to the HumeLink proposal is as follows:

1. Overestimating the number of jobs created

The Technical Report 6 estimates that the HumeLink project would create 17,462 direct and indirect jobs in the regional economy. However, this estimate is based on a number of assumptions that are unrealistic. For example, the report assumes that all of the construction materials and services needed for the project would be sourced locally. This is unlikely to be the case, as many of the large construction companies involved in the project are likely to bring in their own workforce and materials from outside the region.

In addition, the report does not adequately account for the fact that many of the jobs created during construction would be temporary. Once the project is completed, many of these workers will be laid off. This means that the long-term economic benefits of the project in terms of job creation will be much lower than the report suggests.

2. Underestimating the impact on businesses

The Technical Report 6 does not adequately account for the negative impacts that the HumeLink project could have on businesses in the region. For example, the construction of the project could lead to increased traffic congestion and noise pollution, which could deter tourists and businesses from visiting the area.

In addition, the project will have a negative impact on businesses that rely on natural resources, such as agriculture and forestry. For example, the project will require the clearing of some forestry land, which could reduce the availability of timber for local businesses.

3. Failing to consider the cumulative impacts of other projects

The Technical Report 6 does not adequately consider the cumulative impacts of the HumeLink project with other major infrastructure projects that are scheduled for construction in the region in the coming years. For example, the Snowy 2.0 project is also expected to have a significant impact on the availability of workers and accommodation in the region.

This could lead to increased competition for resources and higher prices for businesses, which could offset some of the economic benefits of the HumeLink project.

Further analysis is required of this project before any approvals are granted

- I acknowledge and accept the Department of Planning and Environment's disclaimer and declaration.
- Declaration of political donations: Yes/**No**. If Yes, details
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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Natalie Randall', with a stylized, cursive script.

Natalie Randall

President

Business Snowy Valleys