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10th 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**

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

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

1. Noise and Vibration

We live in the residence O31 which is labelled as:

- a. **A potentially impacted receiver** on page 22 of 34 of SLR Consulting's attachment I **Operational Noise Impact Mapping** in Transgrid's Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment, EIS Technical Report 9.

We believe the impact as stated in the EIS has been underestimated and we are concerned that there is little that can be done to mitigate this impact. We found it difficult to see solutions in the EIS which addressed this impact.

- b. **An impacted receiver - 11 – 20 dB (Moderately intrusive)** on page 24 of 36 of SLR Consulting's attachment G.3 Worst-case Daytime Transmission Line **Construction Noise Impacts** in Transgrid's Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment, EIS Technical Report 9.

We live in this house with our young family and we believe transgrid have severely underestimated the noise, vibration and dust impact on our residence. We are also concerned about the tracks that will be required for access. We will be impacted by the noise and dust of vehicles traveling past our house. We are also concerned about our young family having to manage extra road traffic for safety reasons. We are concerned that our backyard will no longer be a safe place.

We are also concerned about the elderly people on the property who wear hearing aids. The EIS suggests that they will hear extra buzzing when close to the lines. These lines will cut the property in half – through the middle. So travelling and working under them will be necessary. A place that has been our grandfather's safe space, a place he still works on at 92 years of age, is now going to be a place he may not be able to comfortably move about because of these powerlines? We are concerned that this will impact his health and well-being.

2. Bushfire Risk

Transgrid note that "the perceived risk of bushfire along the project footprint may elicit anxieties from those located in or near the project footprint". However, they go on to rate this impact as unlikely, minimal and low.

There has been a great deal of anxiety in the community regarding increased bushfire risks and the risk posed to landholders, residents, animals and property under and near the lines who will not receive the same emergency services as if the transmission lines were not there.

We are concerned that our house is not going to be protected if there is a bushfire. We are concerned about what this means for the stock on the farm. We are concerned about the RFS members who are at an increased risk when fighting fires near transmission lines.

We believe that this risk needs to be further considered and taken more seriously.

3. Visual Amenity

Our visual amenity will be negatively impacted. The impact to us is extremely high.

At what point will Transgrid be expected to consider the value the community puts on it's landscapes and accurately cost the this into it's analysis?

4. Agriculture & Environment

The proposed easement will remove established tree lines, lambing paddocks, hay paddocks, established elm trees used for shelter and fodder. This 70m easement will have profound impacts on the operation of the farm in the short-term during construction, as well as long lasting impacts such as soil compaction and potential erosion.

We are concerned about how the stock will react, including our horses, and other wildlife such as rare birds.

5. Community engagement & mental health impacts

The public have requested that the lines be built underground. If transgrid wanted to engage properly and "empower" the public, they would listen and accurately consider the cost of undergrounding the lines.

We are concerned that Transgrid has grossly overstated their attempts to engage and consult with landholders and communities.

Mental Health is addressed in attachment 1.

6. Positive Net Benefit

We believe that the following social costs have not accurately been included in Transgrid's cost benefit analysis and therefore a positive net benefit is being calculated.

- a. The cost of the health and wellbeing of noise impacted residents
- b. The cost of bushfire risks
- c. The cost of decreased visual amenity and changed landscapes
- d. The cost of community/landholder stress and anxiety (mental health impacts)

We are concerned that this positive net benefit is misleading and that the project will end up delivering a cost. This concern supports us in making these objections because we feel very strongly about having to give up our land when a positive net benefit may not actually be achieved.

We attach a copy of our submission to the Inquiry - Feasibility of undergrounding the transmission infrastructure for renewable energy projects for further background and consideration (Attachment 1).

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

Yours sincerely,



Amy Wyer & Ashley McGrath

Attachment 1

Amy Wyer
Yass, NSW 2582

The Hon Emily Suvaal, Committee Chair,
Inquiry - Feasibility of undergrounding the transmission infrastructure for renewable energy projects
Standing Committee on State Development
Parliament House

6 Macquarie Street

SYDNEY NSW 2000

14 July 2023

Dear The Hon Emily Suvaal MLC,

Re: Feasibility of undergrounding the transmission infrastructure for renewable energy projects

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to this inquiry into the feasibility of undergrounding transmission infrastructure for renewable energy projects. I am an affected resident in the Yass Valley Shire and appreciate this opportunity to voice my concerns.

There are many issues associated with overhead transmission lines that are worth noting in this submission. These issues include impacts on our agricultural operations, increased risks associated with bushfires, destruction of our environments, well establish treelines and pastures, visual pollution, infrastructure inefficiency, and potential biosecurity risks. I'm confident, however, that you will have received plenty of feedback and information on these topics.

The topic that I will endeavour to expand on for you is that of mental health.

For a nation that takes the subject of mental health extremely seriously, it is hard to believe that a foreign owned company has been allowed to continue this project in the bullish manner that it has.

Calling it consultation, they have walked into communities and onto landholders' properties with little compassion and a sense that they're invincible. They deliver shattering news of a project that makes little sense to many, yet seems to be very tightly set in stone – other options are labelled as not feasible. They successfully move through the process with lingering threats of compulsory acquisition and timeframes. Leaving those affected with information that is often out of their depth, hard to process and even harder to navigate through the many consultants awaiting them.

The one thing that is meant to be your safe place, your security, your haven – your home – is suddenly no longer in your control.

The topic is quickly brushed aside with offers of mental health services and potential compensation. Those affected by these projects head down the rabbit hole of a now 3 year journey towards the

unknown. Feeling unsure about the future of their property, their financial situation and in some cases, their living arrangements.

It must be noted that the sleepless nights, the time spent worrying, and the moments lost can not be compensated. These projects are absorbing years of peoples lives and many of their resources. People are donating time and personal funds to fight this. The NSW government is not paying for this fight.

Without crying poor, in the last 5 years rural landholders and communities have been through drought, floods and a pandemic. Animal health concerns also loom on the horizon and threaten agricultural operations should disease enter the country.

Rural and regional areas should not have to fight for a fair battle here. They should be given more support. They should be heard. If there is a feasible alternative to overhead transmission, it should be considered. But assessing the feasibility depends on accurately accounting for the costs.

I ask that the Standing Committee consider the community and social costs of this project when assessing the feasibility of underground transmission and hope that, as a result, you will recommend that Humelink be placed underground.

Let's sink Humelink.

Kind regards,

Amy Wyer