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Dr Tim Johnson

Director, TREENET Inc.

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To whom it may concern,

Submission: Paling Yards Wind Farm Proposal, Oberon, NSW

I thank you for opportunity to provide this submission in relation to State Significant Development: Paling Yards Wind Farm, Oberon. This submission relates to potential impacts of the development on roadside trees on the route along which wind farm components will be transported. These concerns have been raised with Treenet Inc. by members of the community of O'Connell, NSW.

Trees planted near O'Connell were planted as an Avenue of Honour, a living memorial to locals who served and suffered during the First World War including some who made the supreme sacrifice. Officially opened by Field Marshall Lord Allenby in 1926, this Avenue of Honour remains an important commemorative site for the local community to this day.

The Route Study provided as Appendix C with the project documentation notes that the route generally has suitable clearance from vegetation but pruning and possibly tree removals will be required in some locations, including O'Connell Road, O'Connell. The survey report specifically notes '*There is a section of road just before O'Connell that is of particular concern.*' This is the location of the [O'Connell Avenue of Honour](#).

It is fortunate that the O'Connell Avenue of Honour section of the road is relatively straight and the carriageway is broad with a sealed shoulder. Based on Google Streetview imagery captured in August 2023 the existing clearances in relation to most of the trees meet or exceed the width and vertical clearances for freight as specified in the project documentation. This suggests that most trees won't require any pruning and some minimal pruning will be required on several others.

To ensure impacts on these living memorial trees are kept to the absolute minimum it is essential that pruning excessively beyond the freight dimensions specified in the consultation documents is avoided. It is also essential that any pruning is consistent with Australian Standard 4373-2007 *Pruning of Amenity Trees*. Furthermore, AS4373 guides that arborists tasked with preparing the pruning specifications and those conducting the pruning work must be suitably qualified and experienced.

Guided by the Australian Standard and a detailed pruning specification, appropriately qualified and skilled arborists will be able to ensure the necessary clearances with minimal visual impact and no long-term health or structural issues arising from their pruning work. A minimalist approach to pruning will also save money.

The Australian Standard should guide work on all amenity trees, but particularly trees as significant as these living memorials to Australians who served and suffered overseas. Compliance with AS 4373 should be mandatory in all state significant developments.

The [Avenues of Honour Website](#) is a credible source of information on the locations of commemorative trees; it is available to inform planning processes but it remains a work in progress and should not be considered as exhaustive. The Avenues of Honour website should be consulted routinely in the scoping and planning stages of projects so that these significant living memorials can be maintained in perpetuity.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T. Johnson', written in a cursive style.

Tim Johnson