

Submission to the Department of Planning from the Canberra Bushwalking Club

Snowy 2.0 Transmission connection

Since nearby Kosciuszko National Park is a favoured location for walks by members of the Canberra Bushwalking Club, we are perturbed that the NSW Government is considering the use of major transmission lines through our national park.

As bushwalkers, campers and cross-country skiers we value the beauty and natural heritage of this area. Construction of high tension power lines through the park will be visible throughout a huge proportion of the park and destroy its wild nature for a much larger area than the corridor it will occupy. Walks planned in the area would thereby be reduced, affecting our monetary impact on the local businesses.

Our national parks must be protected for future generations, not for the benefit of electricity companies. We strongly object to any new overhead transmission lines through Kosciuszko National Park.

We are fortunate to have relatively pristine mountain environments compared to, for example Europe, and must strive to protect them. Overhead transmission lines are no longer acceptable in environmentally sensitive locations such as national parks. Underground cables have less impact, last longer and are a far better solution.

The Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management requires that any additional transmission lines in the Park be located underground. The NSW Government is planning to overturn this very reasonable policy so that TransGrid and Snowy Hydro Corporation can use a cheaper, outmoded and environmentally destructive option.

Two sets of 75 metre high towers crossing 8 kilometres of Kosciuszko National Park over a cleared corridor up to 200 metres wide will be visible over 250 square kilometres of wilderness. More developed countries would consider this unnecessary environmental destruction.

The 8 kilometre long cleared corridor would destroy the habitat of threatened species such as the Yellow bellied glider, Squirrel Glider, Eastern Pygmy Possum, Gang Gang Cockatoo, Powerful Owl, Masked Owl and the Boorolong Frog.

Kosciuszko National Park is a fragile environment already under severe stress from bushfires, the effects of feral horses, Snow Gum decimation by beetles and climate change. It is our generation's responsibility to conserve this small alpine area of Australia: the use of overhead transmission lines is obsolete, unnecessary and in conflict with our duty to conserve our planet.

Cynthia Breheny

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