

2021 April Objection to Snowy transmission lines

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
NSW Government
NSW Planning Portal

Dear Mr Ko and Planning Department,

Submission: Objection to the proposed Snowy 2.0 Transmission Connection

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Snowy 2.0 Transmission Connection.

My interest in the Kosciuszko National Park stems from a lifelong respect for the natural environment. Especially in summer I would like to visit the Park for bushwalking and to see its alpine plants - unique in the world, don't forget - that we ignorantly and irresponsibly allow to be compromised.

With the visual vandalism of massive overhead transmission lines, added to the damage of recent bushfires, tens of thousands of feral horses, climate change and remaining damage from construction of the original Snowy Scheme, Kosciuszko's alpine environment needs government restoration, not assault. We seem to be nurturing an electricity company rather than our heritage.

In fact, there should be no new overhead transmission lines through national parks. We have avoided the scourge since the 1970s, why do we persist now?

The Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management (POM) requires that any additional transmission lines in the Park be located underground - that was, until NSW began to change the Plan especially to accommodate TransGrid and Snowy Hydro Corporation in using cheaper, outmoded and environmentally destructive overhead lines.

- Underground cables have less impact and last longer
- They require less maintenance
- They are much less likely to fail owing to lightning, storms and bushfires.

Overhead cables are more visually intrusive than any of the existing single-circuit lines in the Park with their:

- two sets of massive 75-metre-high towers
- extent over eight kilometres of Kosciuszko
- cleared area up to 200 metres wide

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- towers and lines visible from a wilderness area of 250 square kilometres.

The one square kilometre of national park to be permanently cleared will reduce the habitat of our threatened species: Yellow bellied glider, Squirrel Glider, Eastern Pygmy Possum, Gang Gang Cockatoo, Powerful Owl, Masked Owl and Boorolong Frog.

The Environmental Impact Statement must propose an underground connection in compliance with the POM and consistent with world's best practice, all the more so because this option is viable.