

Director – Energy Assessments  
Planning and Assessment  
Department of Planning and Environment  
Locked Bag 5022  
Parramatta NSW 2124

Friday 04 February 2022

**REF: SSI-9172452 - Project EnergyConnect (NSW - Eastern Section)**

Dear Ms Brewer,

Thankyou for the opportunity to provide a submission to the proposed transmission line and associated infrastructure. Transgrid (electricity transmission operator in New South Wales (NSW)) and ElectraNet (electricity transmission operator in South Australia (SA)) are seeking regulatory and environmental planning approval for the construction and operation of a new High Voltage (HV) interconnector between NSW and SA, with an added connection to north west Victoria. Collectively, the proposed interconnector is known as EnergyConnect. This submission is in response to that proposal.

Our organisation has two comments to make on the submission:

Firstly, I would like to commend Navin Officer for the excellent ACHAR and technical reports provided in the EIS. It is unusual to see such a thorough assessment. However, there is no mention of contact sites or Aboriginal historical heritage in either technical report. This is disappointing as Aboriginal people have had a long association with the site location well into the contemporary period. In particular, it could be expected that Aboriginal contact sites are found in pastoral locations as Aboriginal people were the mainstay of farming, living and working in the back stations of the region. The potential for contact sites should be acknowledged.

Secondly, there are two large and several smaller sections of the proposal that have not had archaeological survey conducted. The report indicates this is due to access restriction. It is therefore expected in these instances that the proponent conducts a watching brief during construction in conjunction with the Traditional Owners of these lands. The Traditional Owners

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for the larger sections are Mutthi Mutthi (western section south of Balranald) and Wati Wati (eastern section south of Hay), Barkandji for the small section near Buronga, and Wiradjuri for all other smaller sections between Hay and Wagga Wagga. It is important that the Traditional Owners are present for the watching brief and not just RAPs or other Aboriginal people. The presence of Traditional Owners as well as a qualified archaeologist will enable minor modifications should archaeological materials be found during the construction phase.

Once again, I thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission and we look forward to working with you and the proponent into the future.

Yours Sincerely,



Gary Pappin  
*Director*

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