

Ray Mitchell

To: Iwan Davies <iwan.davies@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Nikkita Manning-Rayner
Subject: Project EnergyConnect (NSW - Eastern Section) - SSI-9172452 - Balranald Shire Council Response to EIS

Good afternoon Iwan,

Thank you for the opportunity to make comment in relation to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the EnergyConnect (NSW-Eastern Sector) Project.

Council looks forward to engaging with Transgrid on the development of the Traffic & Transport sub-plan mentioned in Table 19-2 of the EIS. We believe that this is an important process that will assist with the management of traffic safety. Council also sees the road condition surveys as critical in ensuring that our local roads and resourcing are not impaired due to the project activities.

An element that does not appear to be addressed in the EIS is that of sourcing construction materials for road/track construction works, hardstand areas and road/track maintenance/restoration works. These types of construction materials are not locally abundant and Council considers awareness of proposed material sourcing important, so that impacts on future Council maintenance and construction programs, as well as potential for on farm uses, are minimised.

It is noted in the EIS that waste materials are to be separated to permit appropriate disposal and recycling. The inclusions of these types of commitments in the EIS are encouraging. However, it is important that these commitments are translated into real world arrangements so as to minimise the impacts on Council landfill capacity.

We are encouraged by Transgrid's commitment to undertake management planning and consultation with Council around areas of local benefit and social impacts with a view of creating positive outcomes for our community.

We note from the EIS that anticipated workforce numbers are likely to be within the capacity of Council's water and sewer infrastructure capacity currently serving the identified accommodation site at Balranald and it is Council's position that this existing accommodation site is utilised for the project requirements so as to minimise environmental impacts of establishing a new site and create better potential to maximise local benefit.

Council would also like to have an improved understanding of potential telecommunication impacts than has been provided by 20.4.3. The Balranald local government area is not afforded significant mobile communication coverage and Council would be keen to ensure there are no reductions to this coverage due to the proposal.

Additionally, should mobile communications infrastructure be installed to support the proposal, permanency should be considered so as to create long lasting community benefit.

Agriculture is an important local industry and Council welcomes the commitments for consultation with affected landholders so as to ensure mutually agreed processes and impact mitigation measures are implemented.

Should you require additional information in relation to these matters, please do not hesitate to make contact at your convenience.

Kind Regards



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