

Dear AER,

I'm writing as an electricity consumer who is concerned that the regulator protects the community from unnecessary electricity costs by only approving projects, such as HumeLink, at a time which is justified by the progress of the renewables transition.

I can't pretend to have a comprehensive understanding of debates over AER or AEMO's role in the energy transition. However, I am concerned by allegations that the regulator is approving projects in a pattern that is optimised for corporate profit (in this case of Transgrid) rather than for least-cost emissions reductions.

If these allegations are accurate then I worry the AER's decisions could undermine the political feasibility of Australia's energy transition by losing public support.

I ask that:

- AER enforce the letter of the law consistently, and always take care to protect consumer interests above corporate or political interests.
- that Transgrid be asked re-submit the Contingent Project Application, because they weren't eligible to submit the application that AER is currently assessing.
- that the regulator be careful not to rush approvals in a way that allocates costs to consumers that should properly to met by Transgrid.

Sincerely,