

17 July 2024

Possible Premature Approval of Humelink by the Australian Energy Regulator (AER)

Dear Panel Chair and Committee,

Premature approval of Humelink can only exacerbate increases in household electricity bills, and as such the AER must uphold the spirit and letter of the law by putting consumer protection first, not the financial interests of an international conglomerate before that of the Australian householder.

Transgrids application does not align with the current ISP due to AEMO not following mandated process. Therefore, Transgrid should not be given preferential treatment in their attempt to rush this unnecessary infrastructure through, and should resubmit its application in accord with all regulatory requirements at the appropriate time.

Advancing the Humelink project ahead of proper and due process is unjustifiable since the project is contingent upon and will only be necessary on the completion of Snowy 2.0, and its role in achieving 82% renewables by 2030. As each month passes this target is becoming more unlikely, if at all achievable. A more prudent process would be to wait and see how Snowy 2.0

progresses. Therefore, any further investment in Humelink at this stage could be a waste of money.

Approval of Humelink at this juncture would be a classic case of '*putting the cart before the horse*'. And as such a determination should be postponed until Snowy 2.0 has further progressed.

Ian McDonald, Walcha Grazier