

Dear AER,

I'm an electricity consumer as well as a landholder/community member who is impacted by the devastation of Humelink. As a consumer I want the regulator to protect me from any unnecessary or premature bill increases by only approving funding for projects when they are needed (not ahead of time) and only if they have a robust triple (financial, environmental and social) bottom line net benefit. If new transmission infrastructure is necessary I want to ensure that we as consumers are paying for the 'right, next generation, world's best practice' infrastructure that doesn't have disastrous costs for people, communities, agriculture and the environment. Don't approve funding for HumeLink as an overhead option. Undergrounding Humelink is the best, safest and cheapest long term option for Australia!

Furthermore, living in bushfire country I find the governments insistence on overhead transmission inexcusable. Not only have overhead lines caused bushfires in the past, they prevent the Fire Services from accessing critical areas during a fire.

One cannot claim that underground is too expensive without taking into consideration the impact of overhead transmission on fire danger.

thank you,

Jack Child