

Dear Sir,

This submission is made in favour of Murraylink Transmission Company's application to the ACCC for conversion to a prescribed service and maximum allowable revenue for 2003 - 2113.

The present system of power distribution in Queensland is monopolised by those advocating the use of overhead powerlines as the most cost effective means of supplying power. This ,we are led to believe, is the only possible means which will comply with the ACCC ruling that power must be supplied at the lowest possible cost. Such a ruling prevents the consideration of undergrounding power as a more progressive, safer and more aesthetically acceptable alternative with regard to the environment.

Present Powerlink plans are to build yet another massive powerline construction from Milmerran across the Darling Downs. This line will pass through our property, exposing our family to possible health risks, scarring the landscape and significantly reducing the value of our asset.

Powerlink management have refused to consider a request from local citizens to consider the use of underground powerlines as a viable alternative. Mr Gordon Jardine (Powerlink) has publicly stated that he can only operate under the rules set by the ACCC which demand that the most cost effective method be used and that method must be through overhead powerlines. We have been informed that offers have been made by Transenergy to supply power to the region through underground lines at a comparative and cost effective rate.

We support the Murraylink Transmission Company's application in the sincere hope that it will pave the way for the more progressive concept of undergrounding power. We request that the ACCC consider changes to current policies and provisos which provide a convenient excuse for companies like Powerlink to stifle opposition and to prevent the consideration of the use of underground powerlines as a safer, fairer and more acceptable alternative for the community.

Yours faithfully,

Robert & Sharon Caton.  
Hodgsonvale.