

Mr Sebastian Roberts
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Regulatory Affairs – Electricity
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Date: 16/3/03

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Dear Sir

Electricity Regulation Status

Murrylink Transmission Company – Application for Conversion to a Prescribed Service

I wish to make a submission that the ACCC prescribe networking of the service provided by Murraylink, and that it be determined to become a 'prescribed service' for the purposes of the National Electricity Code.

I also submit that the provision of this prescribed service to be eligible to receive the maximum allowable revenue from transmission customers (using a coordinated network service provider) for a regulatory period commencing from the date of the Commission's final decision on Murrylink Transmission Company to 31st December, 2012.

I send this submission to add weight to the thousands of people throughout Australia, being adversely affected by electricity transmission companies, be they private or government backed, wherein the affected people, and their concerns are simply railroaded, given lip service hearings and swept aside to accommodate the company's ideas of 'best option'. The impacts of huge overhead transmission lines cause much unrest, in ways that severely affect people's lives, the environment, and the value of their properties and create negative impacts in many other ways.

As a resident of the Cambooya Shire, I, along with hundreds of other residents are currently being negatively affected by Queensland's Powerlink transmission proposals for this district. As I see it, Powerlink representatives have behaved in very disrespectful ways, providing lip service to our concerns, and not looking seriously at our alternative proposals for underground power supplies. Powerlink presents economic reasons for their 'best option', but do not look seriously at undergrounding as a viable alternative. Their economic arguments leave out ongoing maintenance costs, minimize environmental and social impacts, and rely on getting away with minimal compensation (or in my case no compensation) to the affected people.

The ACCC has sweeping powers to influence the way that power is transmitted in the future. Future transmission of power must be underground, and it needs to be enforced (or strongly recommended) now. Your decisions in the current electricity regulation status, and conversion to prescribed service operations are vital. Your decisions will set precedents with regard to 'lowest cost network' and the asset value of network assets, and either promote or discredit transmission company's arguments with regard to undergrounding. My submission seeks that you take in to account the huge impacts that your decisions will have to create a better future for all Australians.

Sincerely

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