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East Greenmount
Qld 4359

Mr Sebastian Roberts
General Manager Regulatory Officer
ACCC
GPO Box 520J
Melbourne Vic 3001

March 19th 2003

RE: APPLICATION BY MURRAYLINK FOR REGULATORY STATUS

This submission is made to urge the ACCC to change the lowest cost policy on the construction of electricity transmission lines, so that underground transmission of power becomes the preferred option.

In the current situation, companies such as Powerlink have little option but to raise the ire of communities during the planning, construction, existence and maintenance of high voltage overhead transmission lines. Surely these companies welcome an option that overcomes the major community backlash each time a new high voltage transmission line is proposed anywhere in Australia

We ask that ACCC have some consideration for people, community well-being, lifestyle, health, environmental and visual impacts that these high voltage lines are causing. After all, cost is not limited to a dollar value. The cost to affected people and communities far outweighs the savings to individuals on electricity accounts.

We believe that with the increasing density of our population, underground transmission is the only option for now and into the future. Any progress in this technology appears to be stifled by your policy of lowest cost. Your policy arms companies such as Powerlink with the argument that the only option is overhead.

A policy that makes electricity available at the lowest dollar cost to consumers does little to encourage power saving habits and the installation of devices such as solar. Pricing to moderate demand could be a visionary move to foster a culture where the whole community appreciates and conserves electricity as a valuable commodity.

We appeal to you to reconsider the impact that your policy has on people.

Thank you

Glenn and Janice Knight