

Jock and Danelle Lambie
524 Preston Boundary Rd.,
PRESTON QUEENSLAND 4352.

Mr. Sebastian Roberts
Acting General Manager
Regulatory Affairs- Electricity
A.C.C.C.
G.P.O. Box 520J
MELBOURNE VICTORIA 3001.

20 3 03

Dear Mr Roberts,

Re APPLICATION BY MURRAYLINK FOR REGULATORY STATUS.

This submission is made in favour of Murraylink Transmission Company's application to the A.C.C.C. for conversion to a prescribed service and maximum allowable revenue for 2003-2013.


We acknowledge that undergrounding high voltage transmission is more expensive but there are two points in their favour which we consider to be important.

(1) The Councils of Gatton, Esk and Laidley in the Lockyer Valley in S.E. Queensland commissioned a study called 'SCENIC AMENITY IN THE LOCKYER' in July 2002. In this study a comprehensive point system was devised and used to grade scenic amenity (i.e. attractive to ugly) with 230 participants covering all age groups and a wide variety of occupations. This study concluded that the ugliest feature of any landscape was large overground electric transmission lines. The most attractive scenes excluded large buildings and power lines of any shape or size.

(2) Marketing organically grown produce can only be successful if the grower can guarantee that the produce was not grown within 200 metres or more from any high voltage overground transmission line. Power transmission companies and governments in general pour scorn on such strict guidelines as being unscientific, however organic marketing is driven by consumers and they demand this high standard. Underground power using D.C. Light technology does not produce any significant E.M.R. and for this reason alone should be actively encouraged whenever feasible

Murraylink is using ground breaking (literally) technology and should be permitted to operate as a prescribed service in competition with the dinosaurs.

Yours Sincerely



Jock Lambie



Danelle Lambie

FILE No: M2002/468-06.
DOC: D03/11714
MARS/PRISM:

DR. JOHN LAMBIE

M.B.B.S (SYD), F.R.C.S (FD)

819 RUTHVEN STREET

TOOWOOMBA, QLD. 4

PHONE: 36 1655

(All Hours)

GENERAL PRACTICE SURGEON

PROVIDER NO 051294L

A.C.N. 010741081

4th April 2003.

Mr Sebastian Roberts

Acting General Manager
Regulatory Affairs-Electricity
ACCC
PO Box 1199
Dickson ACT 2602

Dear Mr Roberts,

FILE No. M2002/468-06.
DOC: 203/13778
MARS/PRISM:

This submission is made on behalf of landowners living along the proposed transmission line from the Millmeran power station to Middle Ridge in the Darling Downs, S.E. Queensland.

Powerlink claims that power shortages will occur during the summer of 2004-5 in the Darling Downs region. However.....

(1) Submissions regarding solutions to this problem closed on 26 July 2002. The relevant landowners were not made aware of this fact. Their first public knowledge of the proposal was in the August newsletter sent out by Powerlink in that year. Due to this lack of proper notification only one submission was received and that of course was the proposal from Powerlink

(2) Powerlink asserts that a crisis will occur in 2004/5 summer but their figures both real and projected indicate that peak load occurs in winter in this region. I am convinced that this power shortage is contrived to introduce urgency into a situation where none exists.

(3) Powerlink insists that they are 'forced' to find the cheapest (in purely monetary terms) solution to all transmission problems. They claim to consult widely with the public. This is not true. Consultation with Powerlink has always been adversarial, Powerlink contrives to set neighbour against neighbour by having one on one meetings and thereby spreading malicious and false information regarding other landowners attitudes and alleged acceptance of Powerlinks terms and conditions

(4) Powerlink in its financial considerations pay no heed to

(a) Landowners aspirations and reasonable expectations.
Rural populations are not vote winners so that their lifestyle choices can be ignored.

(b) why should the rural and semi-rural citizens be asked to bear the whole cost of a transmission line for mainly urban use

i. Significant property devaluation. Keith Callaghan (Powerlink executive admitted in a public meeting that these lines are a 'blight' on the landscape.

ii. Destruction of organic farming enterprises.

iii. Reduction Scenic Amentty from 9/10 to 2/10.

DR. JOHN LAMBIE

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(c) Social costs

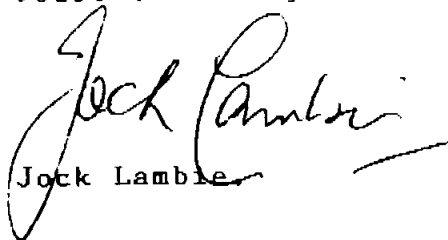
- i. Family breakdown.
- ii. Depression and anxiety (life savings down the drain)
- iii. Possible severe health implications.

If the health issue is excluded, Powerlink give the impression that they are exploiting these problems to force citizens into submission. Because of the rigid manner in which Powerlink conducts its business no financial costing is given in their tendering submissions to social costs such as ill health (I would remind you that depression is the largest current health problem in the nation) financial hardship and the ruin of personal aspirations. Remember that these lines are being forced on the citizens against their will.

Alternative options to the proposed line may have been offered but the suggestions by the local community group have been treated with complete disdain and requests for costings from Powerlink have produced meaningless figures of such a sparse nature as to be insulting

It is my view that any costing of an overhead line is invalid unless it included the social costs that I have put forward.

Yours sincerely


Jock Lambie