

COMMENTS ON THE MURRAYLINK TRANSMISSION CORPORATION SUBMISSION

On many occasions the ACCC has proved itself to be an excellent watchdog for the Australian people. It is essential that this level of scrutiny continues. Under Professor Fels guidance the ACCC has achieved the long awaited and high level of independence and integrity needed to perform its special function, and at the same time meet the equally high public expectation for such protection.

MTC have used some innovative, state of the art technology to gain some outstanding outcomes:

- 📖 Undergrounding the cable 1.2 metres deep and needing as little as a 3 metre wide strip, on which suitable native flora can re-establish. This has assisted in the provision of a benchmark. Most importantly, the performance of Murraylink in constructing the transmission interconnector through three states has provided tangible demonstration of needed conservation measures that have and will continue to go a long way towards progressing from the days of energy authorities being responsible for the clear swathe destruction which has occurred through rare and endangered ecosystems.
- 📖 Low maintenance, by avoiding lightning strike, physical damage from several sources, and the pleasing absence of the ultimate eyesore which has assisted in maintaining the scenic integrity of regions by ameliorating the impacts from the provision of public amenities .
- 📖 Removal of toxic chemical pollution by denying the high voltage cable access to an atmosphere that enables chemical reactions, which produce toxic substances, that windblown or not fall to the earth. The theories of corona ionisation have been suitably advanced to assist in the uptake of knowledge as to the attraction capabilities of such infrastructure.
- 📖 The development of a procedure that remarkably enables the placing of the cable at lower cost than traditional overhead transmission line construction, contrary to a plethora of advice available from electricity producers and Government departments.
- 📖 Effective in reducing transmission costs and the flow on effects of regulatory processes through the distribution network and essentially, the end consumer who has traditionally paid both through being the means of wealth creation to governments and health deprivation.
- 📖 A result of significant importance to organic farmers is that undergrounding the high voltage cable does not require de-certifying the transmission pathway by the certifying body as with the overhead transmission line.
- 📖 The MTC submission mentions, “ determining whether a market network service should be converted to a prescribed service, needs to be decided on a case by case basis.” I trust that this means that the ACCC has the necessary powers to implement every needed regulation to ensure that any procedure relating to electricity transfer produces no down side externalities.
- 📖 Clearly, as in many other areas of human endeavour, in the case of the use of electricity the overwhelming focus must, without lapse, be on preserving human, societal, cultural and environmental health.
- 📖 The issue we are commenting on here is a tiny segment of the intricate web of the life of man in the twenty first century. A life so different from that experienced in earlier times. The real and perceived needs of man have progressively and continually changed over the

millennia

- 📖 The most obvious and likely accurate means of evaluating this change is to engage in a comprehensive and comparative study of the built environment, which needless to say is the work of man.
- 📖 For many people it consumes their all. It can be argued that it is sheer gluttony in the use of resources and products to satisfy man's passion rather than man's need, and in both a contracting economy and environment, it is well to recognise that such past practices, allowing for today's lifestyle expectations, are well beyond the world's ability to provide.
- 📖 **Why is all this important?**
- 📖 It is important because:
 - 📖 electricity is a major necessary component, even the most important in the labyrinthine maze of bits and pieces, of actions and interactions, that give us the built environment.
 - 📖 the unintended down side effects of this continually changing, rather liquid state exacerbate as urbation becomes conurbation and beyond. In the overall who is the master and who is the servant? Are we living lives of fulfilment or lives of enslavement?
- 📖 **To ensure maximum performance in the electricity industry:**
 - 📖 Unquestionably an effective watchdog is needed.
 - 📖 A watchdog that comprehensively, independently and transparently ensures environmental and human safety at all times and in all places.
 - 📖 The past performance, the achievements and current operational procedures of ACCC clearly make it the obvious choice to carry out this role.
 - 📖 This will prove to be an expanding role as new technologies are developed, and current inadequately understood technologies continue to be used.

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