

Sue Paterson
"Yarrowonga"
M/S 465
CAMBOOYA 4358

19th March, 2003

Mr Sebastian Roberts
Acting General Manager
Regulatory Affairs - Electricity
Australian Competition & Consumer Commission
GPO Box 520J
MELBOURNE Vic 3001

Dear Mr Roberts

APPLICATION FOR REGULATED STATUS - MURRAYLINK

I have become aware of the Murraylink Transmission Company having made a submission to the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission (ACCC) seeking conversion to be a "prescribed service" for the purpose of the National Electricity Code. I fully support the Murraylink submission.

I support this because in this highly technological era I believe the practice of erecting high voltage over head power lines is out dated, detrimental to health and the environment, unsightly, and hindrance to carry on safe work practices.

I purchased this freehold property, Yarrowonga, in 2002 for the purpose of carrying on a mixed farming enterprise of cereal crops, beef cattle breeding and mohair fibre and meat production from angora goats, thus contributing to the National economy. This is a highly productive agricultural area of great aesthetic appeal with breathtaking, uninterrupted views down the valley. I believed this farm with its' excellent balance of native blue grass, natural pasture and mix of arable land was ideal for my particular business needs to successfully generate income from livestock production and an excellent investment for my future. I had plans of intensely developing a cell grazing system and wooded wind brakes for an economic and environmentally sustainable enterprise. My future plans also included building a home to retire to on the wooded hill, protected from winds and to better take advantage of the magnificent views this farm affords.

My plans were shattered on relocating here when I received a Powerlink proposal to acquire a corridor for the purposes of erecting an 330 Kva high voltage overhead powerlines to link the Middle Ridge substation to the Millmerran Power Station. I quote from a letter to me from Powerlink, "this corridor covers a considerable portion of your farm". Two and a quarter sided of it to be exact. The proposed powerlines would be erected on all the prevailing wind sides of my farm. I have serious concerns as my only drinking water is rain sourced from roof run off. Powerlink claims there is no documented evidence relating to the associated health risks from Electro Magnetic Fields, or chemically altered or irradiated wind born particles. However, Powerlink will not give a written assurance to me that my health, or the fertility of my livestock or their ability to go into calf and carry to full term a viable offspring will not be adversely affected. Where overhead lines of smaller capacity have been erected over existing cattle and horse breeding enterprises in another area it has been reported to me that they have experienced these problems. The energy company also undertakes on a regular basis to soil test for significant changes which I can only assume to mean acid rain. There is a substantial dam on this place which was built for irrigation, livestock and aquaculture with the release of fingerlings and red claw. It also supports many wild fowl and I have sighted a koala bear here, not long after I arrived. I have grave concerns for the health of the environment these high voltage lines may cause also.

Powerlink state to be duty bound by the ACCC to deliver the cheapest power to the people. Why should I have my amenities ruined, health threatened, suffer financial loss and emotional upheaval, and be restricted in how I wish to carry out my plans for the development of this farm and the ability to carry out safe work place practises that this corridor and powerlines will have if it

proceeds, so that the people in the city will have cheaper power? I am not convinced that a new powerlines and land acquisition is a cheaper form of power deliverance than upgrading existing easements or the undergrounding of power through existing corridors.

I urge the ACCC to give the submission by Murray Link their full consideration

Yours sincerely

Sue Paterson