359 Preston Boundary Road Toowoomba Mail Centre 4352 21 March 2003

Mr Sebastian Roberts
General Manager Regulatory Officer
ACCC
GPO Box 520J
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

RE: APPLICATION BY MURRAYLINK FOR REGULATORY STATUS

Dear Mr Roberts,

THIS SUBMISSION IS MADE IN FAVOUR OF MURRAYLINK TRANSMISSION COMPANIES APPLICATION TO THE ACCC FOR CONVERSION TO A PRESCRIBED SERVICE AND MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE REVENUE FOR 2003-2013

With reference to Powerlink's proposed Millmerran to Middle Ridge high voltage electricity transmission line: costs that must be borne by landowners either with an easement or without an easement but still affected

In August 2002, when Powerlink announced its proposal to an unsuspecting public, my life changed.

I have lived in our family home we built ourselves for the past 27 years. My husband said the proposed towers and transmission lines on our neighbour's block would be too close for comfort. They would be about 100 metres from our house. He said he could not live here and look at "hazardous eyesores" and would have to leave.

The real cost of overhead transmission lines does not factor in social issues, such as the possible ending of a marriage of 41 years. Where are we to live? There is no compensation in our situation - we are the neighbours.

Yours sincerely

Roby - weeker

Mrs R. Walker

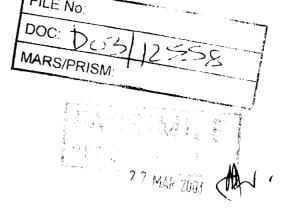
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Mr Sebastian Roberts General Manager Regulatory Officer ACCC GPO Box 520J Melbourne VIC 3001



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Dear Mr Roberts,

The Lockyer Scenic Amenity Study uses a new technique to identify the landscapes people prefer and measure the impact of development.

The Lockyer Scenic Amenity Study has been nominated for the Planning Institute of Australia (Queensland Division) 2002 Social and Community Based Planning Award. The annual PIA Awards for Excellence in Planning aim to promote the profession's important role in community wellbeing and public awareness of good planning.

Photos were used to explore the relationship between scenic preference, land cover, and the type of development. community was shown 121 photos to rank in order of preference. In the top 15 photos, forested mountains and valleys are ranked highly. At the lowest end of the preference scale, photo 116, is a close view of a transmission tower, demonstrating development has an enormous impact on the environment.

The Lockyer Scenic Amenity Study recently won an award in the annual Planning Institue Awards for Excellence in Planning.

The Study was substantially sponsored by Powerlink Queensland.

My property with forested mountains and valleyson the southern escarpment at Preston (via Toowoomba) is highly regarded for That is why we chose this area in 1975 its scenic amenity. for our home. It makes no sense for Powerlink to propose the erection of transmission towers and lines here (proposed Millmerran to Middle Ridge Transmission line). I am very angry and upset.

In today's age the Environmental Protection Agency has recognised our special area and has mapped an 'Endangered Regional Ecosystem' running in a band across our block and the blocks of our neighbours, Mrs Faith Rattray and Colin and Merrilyn Middleton. The vegetation on our privately owned

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With reference to Powerlink's proposed Millmerran to Middle Ridge high voltage electricity transmission line: costs that must be borne by landowners either with an easement or without an easement but still affected

The proposal to build this power line encourages the philosophy that increased demand will be automatically provided for by increased supply. This increased supply in the form of a new enlarged transmission line disadvantages rural landholders/consumers because they must bear costs of lower land values, especially as the land is looked upon as a superannuation asset. The landowner must also bear the extra cost of changed management practices of crop maintenance and harvesting. There is also a danger of loss of soil should Powerlink vehicles maintaining the transmission lines on the easements cause erosion to fields that have been laser levelled to retain rainfall. The entire community bears the loss of visual amenity.

Landholders/consumers on the Great Dividing Range Toowoomba escarpment will lose visual amenity and Endangered Regional Ecosystems, both of which are assets of value for Natural Heritage and tourism.

Small properties 50 hectares or less are all but obliterated by a 60 metre easement. My neighbour has a long, elongated rectangular block approx. 170.8metres wide by 912 metres long, a total of 17.1 hectares. 7.1 hectares will be consumed by the diagonal easement leaving two thin wedges of land on each side of the easement, too small to build Bed and Breakfast accommodation and useless for farming. Compensation was paid 22years ago to a previous owner so no recompense from Powerlink can be expected.

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The proposed transmission line does not allow for competition by alternate generators. Powerlink's proposal increases our reliance on large power generation plants.

Yours sincerely

B. J. Walker

Mr B.J. Walker