

Eudunda Community, Business & Tourism Committee  
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Eudunda SA 5374



20 February 2026

Australian Energy Regulator  
[contingentprojects@aer.gov.au](mailto:contingentprojects@aer.gov.au)  
Level 11, 1 King William Street  
Adelaide SA 5000

Subject: Objection to ElectraNet's Stage 1b Early Works Contingent Project Application

Dear Members of the Australian Energy Regulator,

The Eudunda Community, Business & Tourism Committee hereby submits this response in objection to ElectraNet's Stage 1b Early Works Contingent Project application for the Northern Transmission Project (NTx). We thank the AER for the opportunity to make submissions on this contingent revenue proposal, which seeks approval for \$29.5 million in early works costs including land acquisition, planning and environmental approvals for a major new transmission infrastructure project. ([Australian Energy Regulator \(AER\)](#))

## 1. Insufficient Evidence of Consumer Benefit & Cost Efficiency

The AER's role in this review — to ensure that consumers pay no more than necessary for prudent and efficient expenditure — is critical. ([Australian Energy Regulator \(AER\)](#)) We note that contingent project applications allow transmission network service providers to recover costs ahead of committed construction, often before detailed environmental, social or economic impacts are fully understood. Given recent precedents in other large transmission infrastructure applications (e.g. Project EnergyConnect), independent reviews have found that net benefits can be overstated and uncertain, with modelling lacking sufficient stakeholder scrutiny, and consumer cost impacts potentially underestimated. ([Australian Energy Regulator \(AER\)](#))

AEMC determinations have previously highlighted that proposals to ask consumers to pay for transmission assets prior to them being built can impose additional costs and financial risk on households and small business customers — precisely the outcome the AER is tasked with preventing. ([Australian Energy Market Commission](#)) We therefore urge the AER to critically examine whether the claimed benefits of early approval genuinely outweigh the known and foreseeable costs, especially to regional communities that may bear disproportionate impacts.

## 2. Visual Amenity, Landholder Impact and Community Wellbeing

It is well established in the peer-reviewed literature that overhead high-voltage transmission infrastructure can produce significant negative externalities for local communities. Research on high-voltage overhead transmission lines (HVOTLs) has consistently identified *visual nuisance* as a major factor contributing to local opposition and economic impacts, particularly through effects on property values and perceptions of quality of life. ([ScienceDirect](#))

For example, hedonic price modelling in academic studies shows that properties located within close proximity to existing HVOTLs can suffer relative *price depreciation* — a clear indicator of community value loss — and that when such lines are undergrounded, affected property values can meaningfully increase. ([ScienceDirect](#)) There is also substantial literature reflecting that communities often perceive transmission lines as imposing external costs in terms of aesthetics, land use constraints, and potential stigma — issues especially sensitive in rural and tourism-dependent areas like Eudunda. ([ScienceDirect](#))

While aesthetic concerns may be dismissed by some as subjective, their real economic effects are documented: local expenditure, tourism appeal and property market confidence can all be diminished when major transmission infrastructure alters landscape character. These impacts are especially pronounced in regions with existing historic features, agritourism, and heritage values.

## 3. Environmental and Land-Use Costs Under-Represented

The AER's overview and ElectraNet's own public materials highlight future environmental approvals and assessments to consider native flora and fauna impacts. ([Northern Transmission Project](#)) However, *earlyworks contingent revenue approvals risk locking in more progress before these assessments are complete*. Peer-reviewed research clearly shows that overhead lines have broader environmental footprint and land-use trade-offs compared with buried cables — particularly in areas of ecological or cultural significance — and these costs are often externalised rather than internalised into project planning. ([Curtin Research](#))

The agricultural productivity and tourism appeal of landscapes can be disrupted by corridor establishment, right-of-way clearing, and ongoing maintenance requirements for overhead lines. These impacts are not just visual but extend to land management practices and the community's ability to determine long-term land use.

## 4. Alternative Options and Undergrounding Potential

While the technical complexities of underground transmission are acknowledged — including higher cost and technical constraints — recent Australian research underscores the value of exploring such options where community, environmental and economic values are at stake. ([Curtin Research](#)) The Curtin and University of Queensland report on overhead vs underground infrastructure illustrates that broader community impacts and social licence considerations are essential components when comparing alternatives, not ancillary afterthoughts. ([eeecs.uq.edu.au](http://eeecs.uq.edu.au))

## 5. Previous Community Experiences with ElectraNet Consultations

The clear lack of meaningful engagement, information on project implementation/progression/obsolescence and community benefits has already been highlighted in our submission to ElectraNet, as per our attached letter “Eudunda Community Business and Tourism submission to ENet NTx South”. We urge you to consider both the previously mentioned letter and our email attachment “Email to Tony Mahar 2026.02.03” in conjunction with this objection, as it clearly identifies our concerns and the fact that “the engagement process comes before the information providing process which is causing huge issues for landowners to make educated choices about how this would affect their lives/businesses”.

Given this, we respectfully submit that the contingent revenue application should be reconsidered or conditioned to require a robust cost-benefit analysis comparing overhead and underground options *within and adjacent to the Eudunda region*, including compensation frameworks for landowners and businesses if adverse impacts are found to be material.

In light of the above — including AER’s statutory role to protect consumers, independent evidence on transmission line externalities, and the importance of safeguarding regional economic and social wellbeing — the Eudunda Community, Business & Tourism Committee objects to the approval of the Stage 1b contingent project as currently proposed.

We request that the AER:

1. Scrutinise whether the claimed benefits justify early cost recovery and whether alternative timing or scaled approaches would be more prudent.
2. Ensure any approval is conditional on comprehensive environmental impact assessments, inclusive community consultation outcomes, and evaluation of overhead vs underground alternatives.
3. Require transparent mechanisms for compensation or mitigation for demonstrable community, social and economic impacts.

Thank you for considering our submission.

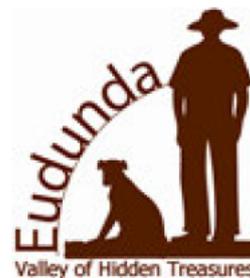
Regards,

Mary Morris & Sarah Binns

[Redacted]

[minutes@ecbat.au](mailto:minutes@ecbat.au)

Eudunda & Mid North Districts NTx Community Response Sub Committee of  
Eudunda Community, Business & Tourism Committee



Mary Morris and Sarah Binns  
NTx Project Community Response Sub Committee of  
Eudunda Community, Business & Tourism Committee (ECBaT)  
PO Box 296  
Eudunda SA 5374  
30th October 2025

NTx Project Team  
ElectraNet  
52-55 East Terrace  
Adelaide SA 5000  
NTx@electranet.com.au

**Subject:** Formal Response objecting to ElectraNet's Northern Transmission Project (NTx) South - All 4 corridors - Adelaide Metro/Templers to Bunday.

Dear ElectraNet NTx Project Team,

### **Executive Summary**

This submission is made on behalf of the [Eudunda Community, Business & Tourism Committee \(ECBaT\)](#). Promoting our "Valley of Hidden Treasures".

The Eudunda Community, Business & Tourism Committee (ECBaT) **strongly objects** to the current 4 corridors of the NTx South through the local region within the Southern Goyder - Eudunda and Robertstown Wards of the Regional Council of Goyder due to community concerns and **Serious Conflicts with the Eudunda & Districts Community Action Plan 2023**.

<https://ecbat.au/download-eudunda-districts-community-action-plan/>

All 4 corridors through Southern Goyder pose ill-considered and unacceptable impacts to our modern and future precision agriculture practices, RIGHT TO FARM, major industries and businesses, biodiversity and community assets, Bushfire safety, farm safety, property values, Tourism assets, liveability and the future population growth of our region. In a community led survey of 312 participants, 282 were strongly opposed to the NTx South.

ECBaT supports the investigation of alternative routes to the East of Goyder's Line which avoid cropping land and the closely settled areas. We note that for the NTx North, the preferred corridor route is 80 km longer than the shorter route via broadacre farming and numerous townships.

ECBaT supports undergrounding of sections of the NTx to minimise impacts.

ECBaT has concerns about the increased burden on electricity consumers from the cost of investigating and constructing the NTx South and questions whether there are better options for ensuring security of supply via small generation closer to demand centres.

Chairperson: Skye Harwood

Ph: [REDACTED]

Secretary: [REDACTED]

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## About ECBaT [Eudunda Community, Business & Tourism Committee \(ECBaT\)](#).

We represent the interests of Community, Businesses, Residents, Tourism and Visitors in the Southern Wards of the Regional Council of Goyder.

Our organisation was established by Constitution in 2002 and a summary of our purpose is listed below:

- To provide an organisation for the promotion of local tourism.
- To work for the improvement of local facilities and attractions.
- To undertake projects of general benefit to the town and district.
- To encourage a close partnership between the Goyder Council and the Eudunda Community.
- Any other purpose or intent for the betterment of the Community.

In 2023 ECBaT formulated a Community Action Plan [Eudunda-Districts-Community-Development-Action-Plan-CAP.pdf](#) which identifies : Our Goals, Our Guiding Values, Our Challenges, Our Assets and Our Strategies & Actions.

The NTx South is Seriously at Variance with the majority of the Community Action Plan.

### **Appointment and Activities of the NTx Sub Committee.**

At our ECBaT meeting on 1 October we appointed a 5 person Sub Committee to investigate community attitudes to the NTx South corridors and use the information gathered to prepare a submission to ElectraNet. The Sub Committee membership included broad representation from across the community sectors of Broad-acre farming, Tourism, Small rural landholding, Eudunda Township, Business.

This submission reflects the findings of widespread community engagement, and a community led survey instigated by the **Hansborough and Districts Residents Group**. We gratefully acknowledge administrative support from the Electoral Office of the Member for Frome, Hon Penny Pratt MP for the printing, distribution and receiving of survey responses and the collation of survey data.

The **Eudunda and Mid North Districts NTx Community Response** survey was launched on 8 October 2025 at Town Hall meeting in Eudunda attended by approximately 70 people. ElectraNet was invited to that meeting, but responded that they would not be attending.

Access to the survey was freely available to everyone and anyone in the wider community via: hard copy paper versions distributed at the Eudunda meetings; subsequent follow up town hall meetings at Marrabel and Riverton; at local businesses at Eudunda, Kapunda and Saddleworth; personal distribution; via Business email mail outs; online links; multiple Facebook pages both public and private; and links in the media eg Stock Journal.

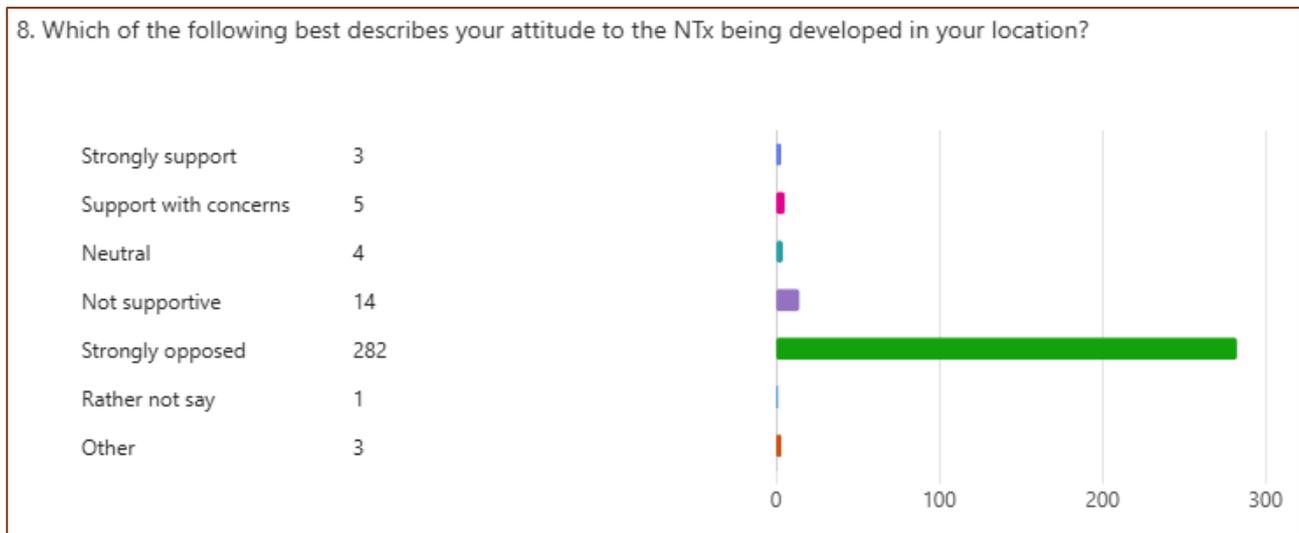
Public meetings have been held in Eudunda, Marrabel and Riverton to gauge the attitudes of local communities including residents, landowners, organisations, and business owners located within the current four proposed corridor areas defined by the NTx project website (NTx Project, n.d.).

## Survey Results Overview

### Support for the NTx South 4 corridors:

Of the 312 participants, 282 were strongly opposed to the NTx South project and 3 strongly supported the NTx.

14 were not supportive, 4 were neutral, 5 supported with concerns, 1 would rather not say and 3 said “other”

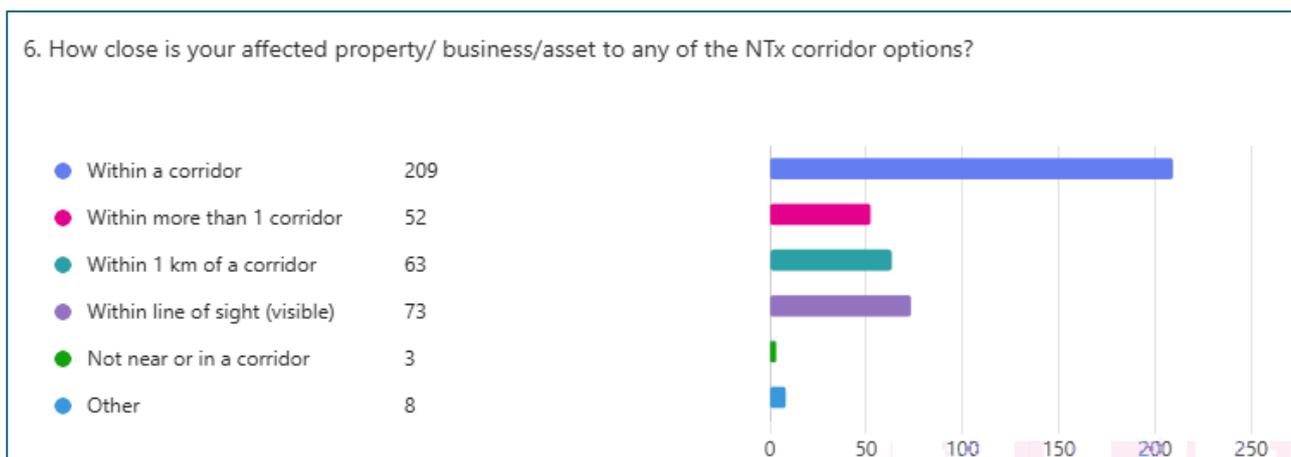


### Location relative to a corridor

209 of the 312 participants were situated “within a corridor” and 52 were situated “within more than 1 corridor”.

63 participants were situated “within 1 km of a corridor” and 73 were “within line of sight of a corridor”.

A total of 11 participants were either “not near or in a corridor” or “other”.



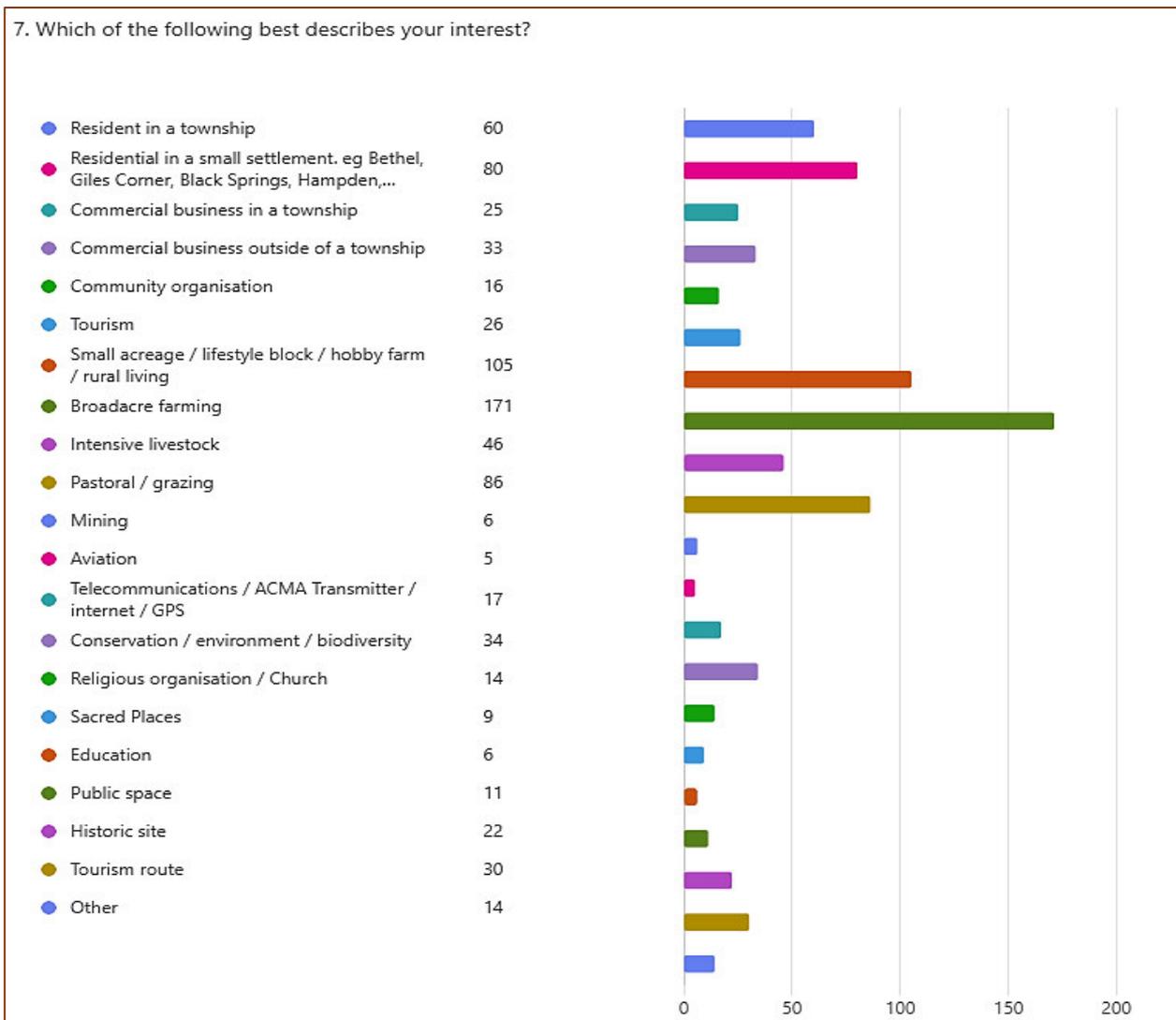
### Issues people were commenting on

Broadacre farming was ranked highest as the issue that most people were interested in with 171 responses.

105 People indicated that their interest related to small acreages, lifestyle blocks, hobby farms and rural living. 80 people’s interest was about residences in a small settlement.

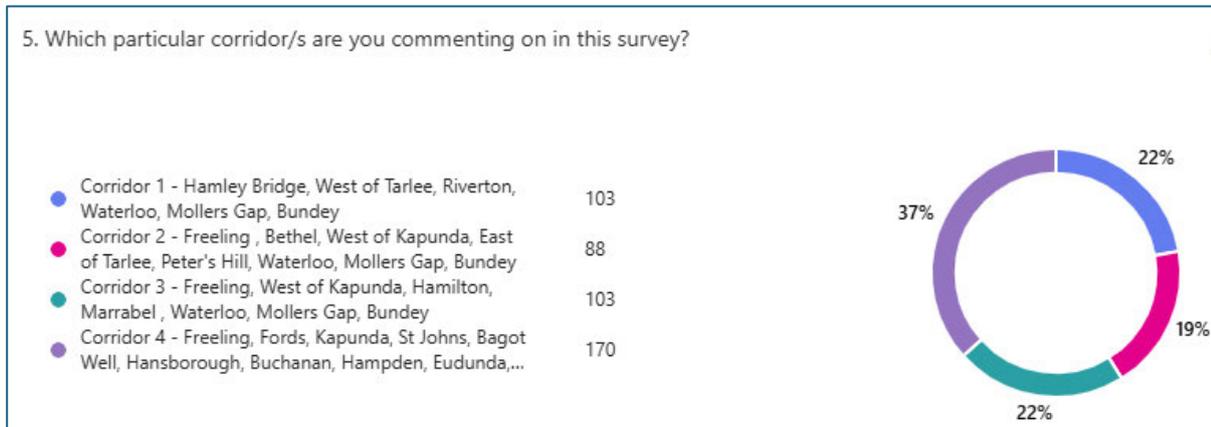
Pastoral and Grazing and Intensive Livestock also ranked highly as an area of interest with 86 and 46 respondents respectively.

Township residential, Conservation/ Biodiversity /Environment and Tourism/ Tourism Routes were also strong themes that people were concerned about.



## Which particular corridor/s were people commenting on?

When questioned about which corridor people were commenting about, 170 were commenting about Corridor 4 via Bagot Well and Eudunda, 103 commented on Corridor 3 via West of Kapunda and Marrabel, 103 commented on Corridor 1 via Hamley Bridge and Riverton and 88 commented on Corridor 2 via Bethel and Peter's Hill.



## Summary of issues raised

For ease of reference, we have collated community feedback into specific topics which have been detailed below whilst endeavouring to preserve anonymity.

Quotes are copied verbatim without spelling correction.

### 1. Use of Prime Production Land

The proposed NTx routes traverses high-value cropping land in the Mid-North and environs. The impacts we expect are loss of productive land for tower footprints, access tracks, maintenance corridors, and easements, which all leads to reduced cropping area and/or forced layout changes. As such, many survey participants expressed strong opposition to the proposed project corridors and were described as a direct threat to food security, with concerns about “wasting reliable food production land” by “going right through prime farming land.” Emotional ties to the land were also evident, with one survey participant lamenting the “loss of right to farm on farms that are in some

cases 5th generation farms." Some specific comments are listed below which is indicative of the community's overall sentiment.

- "They are so large they would be a visible eye sore in such narrow valleys. They would physically take up prime farming land."
- "Reducing productive broadacre farming, health of residents and community... impact on future development of regional towns, impact on tourism and eco tourism due to visibility and location of lines."
- "Commercial industrial infrastructure on pristine agricultural land are not cohesive or fitting to the surrounding environs."
- "Destroying and taking up some of the best farming land in South Australia."
- "Loss of right to farm on farms that are in some cases 5th generation farms... Devaluing of prime agricultural land."
- "Wasting reliable food production land. Dangerous for high machinery use in the area. Ruin our scenic countryside. De-valuing the land."
- "Food security. Taking up the most reliable cropping land in South Australia."
- "Putting it through the most productive country."
- "Loss of prime cropping land, disruption to efficient farming activities..."

## **2. Effects on Farming Operations & Increased Safety Risks**

The proposed transmission towers present serious challenges to farming operations and from our research the farming-transmission FAQs of Transmission Company Victoria (TCV) indicate that equipment height above 5m to 8.6m requires assessment, which indicates real operational constraints for large farm equipment (TCV, n.d.). Operational constraints that have been identified are large machinery turning, aerial spraying, boom spraying, irrigation infrastructure will be restricted by tower placement, clearances, overhead line height, and setback buffers. Working near high-voltage power lines presents serious safety risks that must be strictly managed. According to official guidance from regulators such as WorkSafe Queensland (n.d.), hazards include electrocution, electric shock, arc-flashes, fire and structural collapse when plant, materials or people encroach on exclusion zones or come too close to live conductors. Survey participants also highlighted disruptions to paddock access, reduced efficiency in broadacre cropping and potential risk of long-term viability should this project proceed. Overall, the infrastructure is viewed as incompatible with the practical and sustainable needs of modern agriculture. Some specific comments are listed below which is indicative of the community's overall sentiment.

- "Harder for heavy machinery to harvest and spray crops especially at night to navigate around these towers."
- "Danger to me and any staff that have to operate equipment around and under these lines."
- "Issue with height of line with big farming equipment needing to stay more than 12 m from lowest sag in the line."
- "Extra headlands from driving around massive towers, more of the crop will be damaged."
- "Loss of income by less of our property available to crop."
- "Wasting productive land with transformers situated there permanently."
- "Loss of workable cropping country."
- "Reduce area of land that can be farmed, reduce productivity."

### 3. Aerial Spraying & GPS Interference

Survey participants raised serious concerns about the impact of transmission towers on aerial spraying and GPS-based farming. Many noted that the towers would obstruct flight paths, making aerial application unsafe or unviable—particularly in broadacre cropping areas. There were also repeated warnings about performance degradation with GPS and RTK systems (Gibbings, P., et al. 2001), which are vital for precision agriculture. The lack of clear answers from ElectraNet on these technical issues has deepened frustration and uncertainty among landholders. Some specific comments are listed below which is indicative of the community's overall sentiment.

- “Difficult to aerial spray in wet winters/spring.”
- “RTK/GPS dropouts during spraying and harvest.”
- “Won’t get spray planes to spray crops.”
- “Interference with GPS on equipment including unmanned precision weed management systems.”

### 4. Biosecurity

Survey participants expressed concern that increased and unregulated access to farmland—through construction and maintenance activities—could compromise biosecurity, risking the spread of pests and disease. Many also feared long-term impacts from easements and tower placements, including restricted paddock access, interference with livestock management, and reduced control over their properties. There is a strong call for clearer communication, formal agreements, and respect for farming operations to safeguard productivity and safety. Some specific comments are listed below which is indicative of the community's overall sentiment.

- “Biosecurity risks from construction crews moving between properties.”
- “Restrictions on farming activities in the easement.”
- “Unable to conduct operations within easement in the future.”
- “Visual amenity impacts, reduced property values, biosecurity concerns, impact on farm operations.”
- “Potential fatalities and injuries on farms working near high voltage power lines, people accessing properties without considering farm needs and biosecurity...”
- “Biosecurity risks from construction crews moving between properties.”
- “ElectraNet need to get into land to fix problems/issues with the lines where these towers are – they won’t care if there is a crop in or not, they will just go ahead!”

### 5. Environmental Damage

Survey participants raised strong concerns about the environmental damage caused by the implementation and maintenance of the proposed transmission towers. Many fear irreversible damage to rural landscapes, native vegetation, and wildlife habitats, with some comparing the visual impact to “Torrens Island at Port Adelaide.” There is also concern about the fragmentation of farming ecosystems, the loss of biodiversity in areas currently used for sustainable agriculture

and long-term ecological degradation such as, the degradation of topsoil not only threatens food security but also diminishes carbon sequestration capacity, exacerbating climate change (Montanarella & Panagos, 2021). Some specific comments are listed below which is indicative of the community's overall sentiment.

- “Soil destruction leading to compaction, erosion, long term health implications, not just on humans, but on livestock, plants and microbes...”
- “Environmental damage. Lower property value. Interfere with telephone and internet service. Health hazard living with 1 of transmission.”
- “Huge environmental and animal welfare impacts.”
- “Destruction of Native Scrub with endangered flora and fauna specific to this valley.”
- “Impact to the River Light water table and catchment areas.”
- “The Heysen trail runs along the ridges & crosses to the Tothill Range at Marrabel.”

## **6. Food Security**

Food security is a key concern for survey participants, who fear the current proposed project corridors will fragment South Australia’s most productive cropping land. The loss of arable land, restricted access, biosecurity risks, fire risks, environmental damage and interference with farming operations are seen as direct threats to reliable food production. South Australia is already having issues with food security with a survey indicating that around 16% of households report difficulty accessing sufficient, safe, nutritious and culturally appropriate food (DHS, n.d.). As such, this land is irreplaceable and vital to national food supply, thus we are urging planners to avoid compromising high-performing agricultural zones. Some specific comments are listed below which is indicative of the community's overall sentiment.

- “Diminishing long term food security, farmers are already being pushed to the brink, this is not what we need or want to be fighting against.”
- “With climate change being an issue, we need food security, not valuable productive farming land being filled by solar panels, transmission lines and batteries. SA is continually losing prime food production land, its highly concerning.”
- “Farmland and townships affected. Once built we can’t get this land back. Food production needs to increase in the next 35 years to feed a growing nation. How do we grown when we are already using productive land for housing and now power lines?”
- “Food security. Taking up the most reliable cropping land in South Australia. My family in 175 years have had the worst drought, but at lease got seed back.”
- “Will detract from the natural beauty of the area which will impact tourism, as well as mental health issues. A waste of prime food production land, rather the useless land.”

## **7. Electromagnet Radiation (EMR) & Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) Exposure**

Survey participants expressed concern about potential health risks from EMR and EMF near homes and farms. Fears included long-term exposure effects, such as childhood leukaemia which is mentioned by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2025). The lack of independent health studies and clear communication from ElectraNet has deepened community anxiety. Many called

for buffer zones, underground cabling, and greater transparency to protect public wellbeing. Some specific comments are listed below which is indicative of the community's overall sentiment.

- “EMR and EMF are cited as invisible yet harmful forces that may affect both human and animal health.”
- “Prolonged exposure to high voltage transmission lines is feared to cause stress, sleep disruption, and other health issues.”
- “EMF and noise pollution from transmission lines may interfere with migratory patterns, nesting behaviour and habitat stability.”
- “Wildlife, including native bird populations, are vulnerable to both direct and indirect disruption from electromagnetic interference.”
- “EMR, dangerous to humans and animals. Resale property loss.”
- “Detrimental to the landscape in both agricultural, visual and invisible ways.”
- “Environmental impact – possible disruption of ecosystems both during construction and operation. Wildlife (birds, animals) may be affected by noise, EMF or habitat changes.”
- “Huge environmental and animal welfare impacts. There are a lot of farms which will lose land not to mention this land in some of the best food producing land in Australia.”
- “Health concerns – is this going to affect my kids.”
- “Ongoing high stress due to the loss of property value, disruption to farming, and the proximity of the line.”
- “Long term health implications, not just on humans, but on livestock, plants and microbes as well.”

## **8. Noise, Quality of Life & Mental Wellbeing**

This project has triggered widespread mental health and quality of life concerns among survey participants. Many described stress and anxiety due to uncertainty, poor communication, and the potential loss of homes, farmland, and community identity. The presence of towers near homes is seen as a direct intrusion into personal space, affecting sleep, wellbeing, and the enjoyment of outdoor environments. Farmers in Australia are already facing significant mental health challenges, driven by a combination of environmental, economic and social pressures. According to the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) “National Farmer Wellbeing Report”, almost half of surveyed farmers (45%) reported experiencing depression in recent years, and nearly two-thirds (64%) reported anxiety; shockingly, close to half (45%) had thoughts of self-harm or suicide while about 30% had attempted to self-harm (National Farmers' Federation, 2023). Fears over property devaluation and diminished quality of life have left survey participants feeling helpless and frustrated, and we are prompting for greater transparency, genuine consultation, and emotional support considering the distress this project is causing on an already overwhelmed minority. Some specific comments are listed below which is indicative of the community's overall sentiment.

- “Significant impact on the mental health of farmers, their families, and local communities.”
- “The power lines will take away my peace, both visually and mentally.”
- “Everything and our Autistic son will not handle the noise (hum) from the lines.”
- “Noise (and possibly vibration) can disrupt sleep, increase stress, contribute to headaches, hypertension, anxiety...”

## 9. Fire Risk

Survey participants living in bushfire-prone areas have raised serious concerns about the increased fire risk posed by the proposed project corridors. Many referenced the devastating Pinery fire as a stark reminder of how quickly conditions can escalate in rural South Australia, where dry vegetation and high winds create volatile environments. The introduction of large-scale infrastructure, particularly in cropping zones with high fuel loads, is seen as a dangerous addition that could hinder aerial firefighting, increase ignition risks, and compromise emergency response efforts. According to Energy Safe Victoria (2023), transmission lines passing through or adjacent to high bushfire-risk environments require additional mitigation and the presence of dense smoke beneath lines heightens risk of flashover and arc-faults. This puts not only our community at risk, but firefighters and other first-responders. Community members are urging planners to consider relocating the project to less fire-sensitive areas and to prioritise safety in all aspects of design and route selection. Some specific comments are listed below which is indicative of the community's overall sentiment.

- “Firefighting planes will not be able to safely navigate the area or be able to drop in altitude when dumping water.”
- “We will be left without their crucial assistance during a bushfire.”
- “Grass/stubble fires from equipment failure and sparking between high voltage lines.”
- “As a CFS firefighter... I have been to a number of fires that have experienced carbon arcing issues.”

## 10. Adequate Compensation for Financial, Economic & Insurance Risk

There is a strong sentiment that those bearing the burden of the project should not be left worse off, and that meaningful protections must be in place to safeguard livelihoods. From what we have researched, installations of high-voltage power lines on or adjacent to private property can expose landowners and financiers to several intertwined financial, economic and insurance risks. Firstly, property valuation studies indicate that proximity to transmission infrastructure often leads to measurable reductions in market value. Residential parcels near high-voltage overhead lines may suffer value declines in the order of 2% - 10% (and in some cases more) depending on visibility, distance and market perception (LandApp, n.d.). This depreciation affects homeowners' equity, borrowing capacity and resale prospects. Secondly, easements and rights-of-way granted to utilities impose land-use restrictions (for example on building, tree cover or future development) which can reduce the utility of land and hence its economic return (WesternPower, n.d.). Thirdly, insurance and financing risk may increase: some insurers and lenders treat properties near major transmission lines as higher risk (due to perceived hazard, liability or loss of value) which can translate into higher premiums, stricter underwriting or even refusal of coverage or finance (PropertyTalk, 2022). Additionally, the World Economic Forum (2020) emphasises that infrastructure assets have inherent transition and physical risks (e.g., changing regulation, shifting energy policy, legacy grid assets) which may lead to stranded value or increased cost burdens for adjacent stakeholders. Respondents have called for fair and transparent compensation processes, with some expressing frustration over the lack of clarity around landholder rights, easement agreements, and financial redress. Some specific comments are listed below which is indicative of the community's overall sentiment.

- “Devaluing of prime agricultural land.”
- “Property values depreciated with having ElectraNet through it.”
- “This will decrease land values, which will impact upon landholders’ abilities to gain bank loans.”
- “Increase insurance risks.”
- “The added [fire] risk will increase insurance premiums.”

## 11. Ambiguity on Maintenance, Upgrades & End of Life

Survey participants have commented on the ambiguity around what is expected surrounding the ongoing maintenance (Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner, n.d.-a), the expectations of ElectraNet when needing access to fault find on short notice, potential upgrades and even end of life decommissioning (Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner, 2023). Some specific comments are listed below which is indicative of the community's overall sentiment.

- “Would there be expansion of the corridor in the future. With voltage upgrades and potentially closing the corridor to the farmers”
- “The disruption to local families from construction, repairs, risks of faulty lines/towers”

## 12. Impacts on Tourism

The proposed corridors for this project have raised concerns about its potential impact on regional tourism and eco-tourism. Survey participants fear that the visual intrusion of large-scale infrastructure, particularly in scenic valleys and agricultural landscapes, will diminish the natural beauty that attracts visitors to the area. The towers are seen as incompatible with the character of Clare Valley and surrounding regions, which rely on their rural charm, open vistas, and environmental appeal to support local tourism, cellar doors, and nature-based experiences. There is a strong sentiment that the project risks undermining both the visitor experience and the economic benefits tourism brings to these communities. Some specific comments are listed below which is indicative of the community's overall sentiment.

- “Ugly, destroying the beauty of the area.”
- “These poles will become a significant feature of the area... a feature we haven’t asked for and do not want.”
- “Tourism impact is bad in area with Heysen and Lavender Trail.”
- “Scenic vistas & landscape character will be destroyed – the Heysen trail runs along the ridges & crosses to the Tothill Range at Marrabel.”
- “Will detract from the natural beauty of the area which will impact tourism... already established tourism destinations such as Anlaby Station.”

## 13. Traditional Landowners

Concerns have been raised regarding the impacts to the traditional landowners and management of their culturally significant locations, such as burial sites. The importance of early community engagement including traditional owners is emphasised, to ensure cultural heritage, ecological

and land-use factors are included from the outset (Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, 2022). Some specific comments are listed below which is indicative of the community's overall sentiment.

- “One part of our farm has been... suggested to be an aboriginal burial site of which I have never found additional information about.”
- “There is deep concern about the potential disruption or destruction of Aboriginal cultural sites of significance, which must be protected and respected.”

## 14. Public Consultation

Community sentiment toward ElectraNet’s consultation process was overwhelmingly negative. Many survey participants reported learning about the project through neighbours, social media, or community groups—not from ElectraNet directly. This lack of proactive communication led to widespread frustration, with several respondents stating they had received “no letters, no visits,” and “no updates at all.” Others described the engagement as “tokenistic,” “a tick-box exercise,” and “poorly managed,” with inconsistent information provided at different sessions. Information sessions were criticised for being vague, lacking transparency, and failing to answer key questions. Some survey participants felt deliberately excluded from discussions, noting that ElectraNet “declined invitations to community-led meetings” and sent “junior staff who couldn’t answer the difficult questions.” The absence of open forums and clear maps added to the confusion, and many felt the process was designed to limit feedback rather than genuinely engage with affected communities. The AEIC finds that in many cases communities are not adequately consulted in the planning, design or routing of transmission infrastructure; often hearing about a project only after decisions are made (Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner, n.d.-b). Overall, the consultation was seen as inadequate, dismissive of local voices, and damaging to trust. Some specific comments are listed below which is indicative of the community's overall sentiment.

- “No – we have not directly received any information or engagement opportunities from ElectraNet.”
- “Hell no. To not even be individually notified as residents and to find out via goddamn Facebook about the project is beyond a joke.”
- “No. My first knowledge of this project was from a stranger through Facebook.”
- “We have had no communication except from an adjacent neighbour.”
- “Community engagement has been underwhelming... it seems to be a tick box exercise.”
- “Engagement feels tokenistic. When invited to community-led events or to meet with local council, invitations have been declined.”
- “Their community meetings seem to be an exercise in ticking boxes.”
- “ElectraNet has been invited to community meetings to voice their concerns. Declined to attend. It’s piss weak and gutless.”
- “Different answers from different info sessions. The consultation approach has been a divide and conquer approach.”
- “Maps too vague. Feel they are just ticking boxes.”
- “No – they have been inconsistent with website changes, and not being forward in getting or giving information.”
- “Absolutely not. The silo treatment of the community has been ridiculous.”
- “People only find out by accident. People think that they aren’t getting straight answers.”

- “The community has done more about getting the word out.”

## In conclusion

For the NTx North, ElectraNet have selected their preferred corridor out in the pastoral area. This corridor is **80 km longer** than the route through the inside country.

Any argument that a 5th SOUTH corridor East of Goyder's line would be more expensive does not stack up.

There are more assets eg houses and farm yards that need to be avoided in the cropping areas and that adds complexity, twists and turns to the route. In addition ENet has said if you have sheds or structures in the way, they will pay to have them moved - another expense.

The 5<sup>th</sup> corridor East of Goyder's line only is only about 10 km longer than going through the much more valuable cropping land.

Landowners payments based on Market Valuation for easements in very high value cropping land ie \$7k - \$14 K per acre has to be more expensive for ENet than pastoral country \$ per acre.

Unlike other States, ENet's current framework for payments to landowners does not take into account amenity, productivity and economic losses to the stakeholders.

QLD is leading the way with a new Stakeholder framework that provides for payments to neighbours of the transmission line as well. Our community would accept nothing less.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/landowners-set-for-huge-windfall-as-queensland-accelerates-its-supergrid-transition/#:~:text=Landowners%20in%20Queensland%20are%20set%20to%20receive%20the,deliver%20up%20to%20%24450%20million%20into%20landowner%20hands.>

The NTx South Project, with its 4 current corridor layouts, poses a multifaceted threat to the agricultural, environmental, and social fabric of the affected regions. The burdens described above raise questions of fairness and social licence. If the community is expected to carry the physical, visual, safety and maintenance burdens of new infrastructure, there should be **transparent processes for appropriate compensation, meaningful alternatives (for instance, undergrounding, lower-impact routing), and opportunity for informed input.**

The voices of the community reflect a consistent and urgent plea: to reconsider the route and design of this infrastructure in order to preserve South Australia's most valuable farming land, protect its ecosystems, and safeguard the wellbeing of its people.

Sincerely,

Mary Morris and Sarah Binns on behalf of  
Respondents to Coordinated Community Response Survey  
NTx Project Community Response Sub Committee of  
Eudunda Community, Business & Tourism Committee (ECBaT)

[Redacted signature area]

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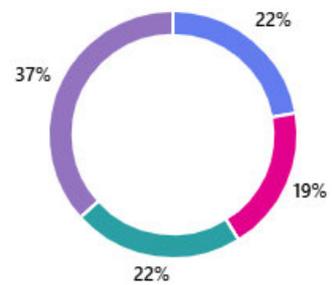
<https://www.weforum.org/stories/2020/09/how-we-can-get-real-value-from-infrastructure>

## 15. Appendix A

Graphs compiled by the extraction of CCR Survey data.

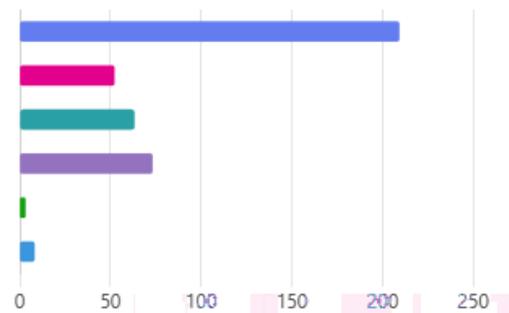
5. Which particular corridor/s are you commenting on in this survey?

● Corridor 1 - Hamley Bridge, West of Tarlee, Riverton, Waterloo, Mollers Gap, Bunday	103
● Corridor 2 - Freeling, Bethel, West of Kapunda, East of Tarlee, Peter's Hill, Waterloo, Mollers Gap, Bunday	88
● Corridor 3 - Freeling, West of Kapunda, Hamilton, Marrabel, Waterloo, Mollers Gap, Bunday	103
● Corridor 4 - Freeling, Fords, Kapunda, St Johns, Bagot Well, Hansborough, Buchanan, Hampden, Eudunda,...	170

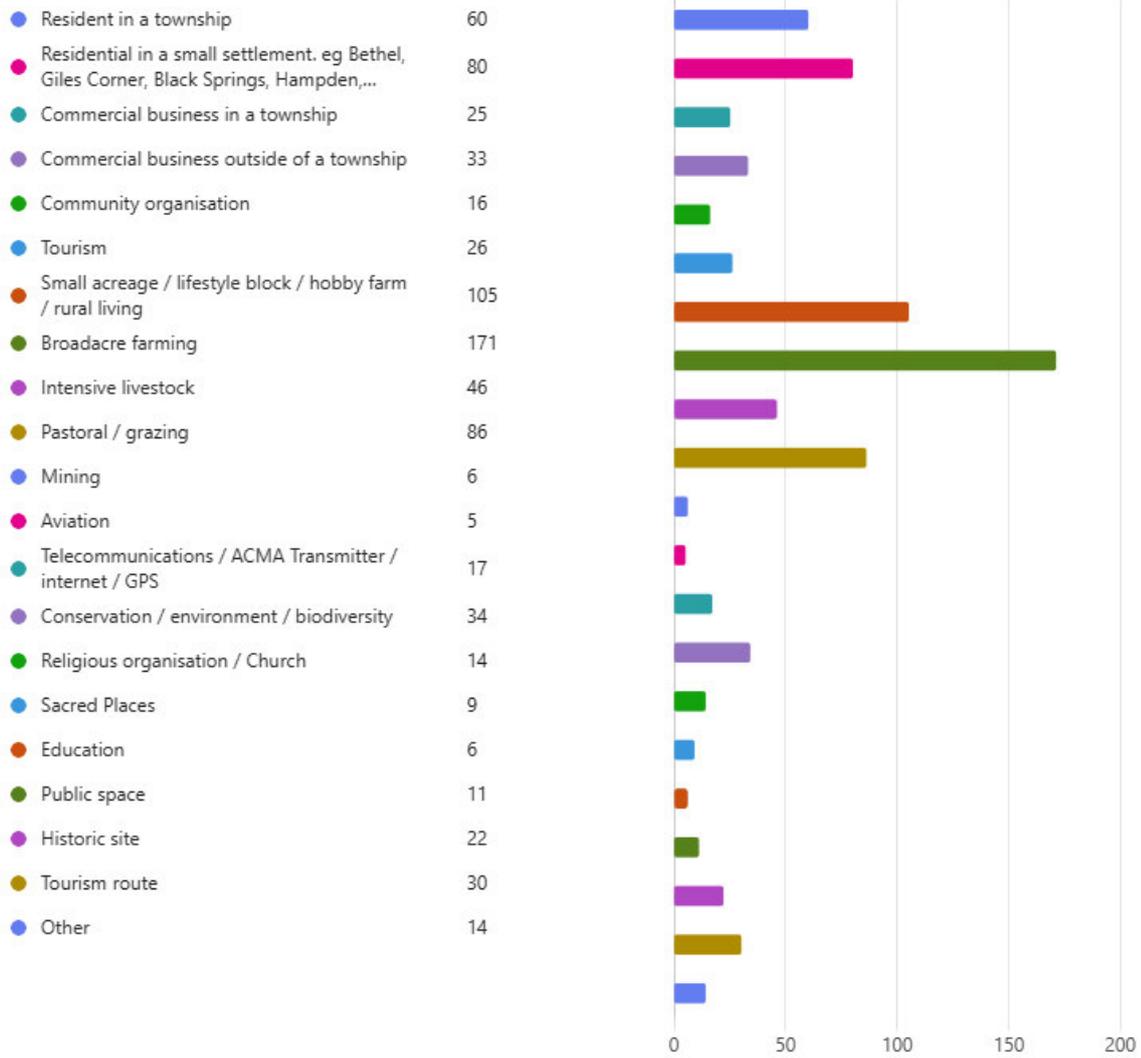


6. How close is your affected property/ business/asset to any of the NTx corridor options?

● Within a corridor	209
● Within more than 1 corridor	52
● Within 1 km of a corridor	63
● Within line of sight (visible)	73
● Not near or in a corridor	3
● Other	8

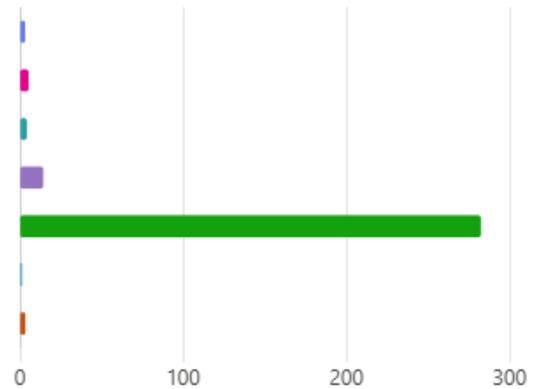


7. Which of the following best describes your interest?



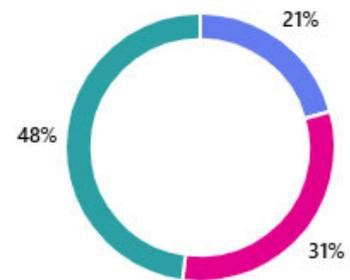
8. Which of the following best describes your attitude to the NTx being developed in your location?

Strongly support	3
Support with concerns	5
Neutral	4
Not supportive	14
Strongly opposed	282
Rather not say	1
Other	3



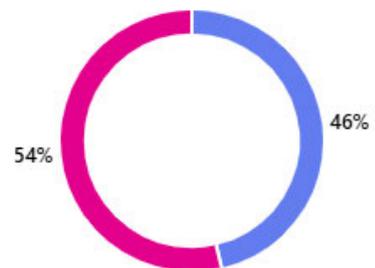
9. Has your Local council been engaged with community concerns about the NTx?

Yes	63
No	96
Not sure	146



15. Have you signed up for updates from ElectraNet

Yes	134
No	155



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## ElectraNet NTx Issues

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From Sarah Binns [REDACTED]

Date Tue 3/02/2026 7:24 PM

To [REDACTED]

Cc [REDACTED]

 1 attachment (506 KB)

Eudunda Community Business and Tourism submission to ENet NTx South.pdf;

Hi Tony,

Thank you for taking the time to visit and reach out to our community personally.

I really hope that your passion and drive can help us with our concerns for not just this current project, but all future projects through our community.

Mary Morris has been integral in networking and data collection of our concerns regarding this specific project. I have attached a copy of our response to ElectraNet's NTx Project team, which is very detailed with our many concerns that have been grouped into similar categories.

With your comments about needing feedback/complaints to be sent through to yourself, we have copious amounts of responses to a survey Mary Morris organised. We would be happy to provide you some information, but we would have to sanitise the data to prevent sensitive information being distributed. What I would need is for some guidance on how you would like the information to be collated.

In response to your comments regarding the fact sheets, potentially the attached document may help guide you on areas that would benefit for better clarity and future fact sheets. I would appreciate if you could add me to any mailing lists so I can promptly share the fact sheets with our community, as they become available.

As per our discussion today, could you please look at how the current project process can be changed, as the engagement process comes before the information providing process which is causing huge issues for landowners to make educated choices about how this would affect their lives/businesses. This is one of my biggest sticking points, as how can you engage in proper due diligence as a business owner (which these farmers are) without all the facts. This makes it inherently risky for all landholders involved.

Currently we are relying on information from other states because ElectraNet has failed to provide specific information on how this would impact farmers ability to utilise their land. In some cases (when they can actually get a response), they have spoken to different representatives and received different answers from each.

I would specifically like to know more detail about what the process should look like, what information we should legally be provided, etc. I am particularly angry about the offhand comments I've been told that others have received from the ElectraNet staff. Some examples are that ElectraNet will just do a forcible acquisition of their land. Another comment is about how ElectraNet will just have environmental protections lifted, do the work, and then have the protections reinstated. As though the environmental damage they will do is not even a consideration, just another hurdle to get their project done. These comments come across as arrogant and dismissive, which is why you had so many people getting angry today.

In response to Mary Morris's comment about our council not helping, while I understand that they have some limitations, the residents have been quite vocal about their issues and have felt that much of their comments have fallen on deaf ears. Collaboration at every level of government has been difficult and felt like screaming into the void. We want information, we want to know how we can engage and what we need to say to make ourselves heard.

Regarding the complaint form on the AEIC website, can I suggest that you make the PDF a form that can be filled out? Not everyone can afford a Microsoft software package or can understand how to work technology sufficiently to find a work around to open and edit the Word document.

Regarding the comments by others about the windfarms productivity, can I suggest the possibility of a dashboard that show which towers are active and, if they aren't, why the aren't? A similar example would be SAPN's power outages map. Like you said, there many reasons why they aren't running, but most people do not understand how a windfarm works in detail. My partner works in the mechanical engineering field, so I get to hear it in detail and understand better than most...

Thank you for your time today and I hope that we can collaborate moving forward to make this as painless as possible.

Kind regards,

Sarah Binns



Vice Chair of Eudunda Community, Business and Tourism Committee



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**From:** Mary Morris [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, 3 February 2026 12:10 PM

**To:** AEIC <aeic@aeic.gov.au>

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** ATTENTION Tony Mahar Fw: Submission from ECBAT regarding the NTx South

Hi Tony

Thanks for attending the Eudunda Forum today.

Please find attached the Eudunda Community Business and Tourism submission to the NTx.

We look forward to ongoing engagement with you to resolve concerns experienced with the community engagement by ElectraNet and Goyder Council re the NTx.

**Mary Morris**  
**ECBAT NTx subcommittee**

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**From:** Mary Morris [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 31 October 2025 4:47 PM  
**To:** ENet: NTx <ntx@electranet.com.au>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Submission from ECBAT regarding the NTx South

Please see attached Submission regarding the NTx South Corridor on behalf of the Eudunda Community Business and Tourism Committee NTx Sub Committee

Mary Morris and Sarah Binns