

20/02/2026

The Secretary

Hansborough and Districts Residents Group

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear AER;

AER submission Cover Letter

Re: ElectraNet - Northern Transmission Project CPA 1b - 2026-27 - PTRM - January 2026

Hansborough and Districts Residents Group (HADRG) thanks the AER for the opportunity to provide a submission regarding the prudence and efficiency of the proposed costs within the NTx stage 1b early works application.

This submission comprises 4 documents inclusive of this cover letter.

The remaining 3 pdf documents formed HADRG's submission to ElectraNet regarding the NTx submitted 31 October 2025. (attached)

HADRG reserves the right to add a series of media articles as evidence of community experience to this submission following the COB on 20/02/2026 due to ongoing developments.

HADRG does not support approval of the 1b application for increased funding for the NTx.

Neither ElectraNet's NTx consultation process nor their justification for the NTx project have satisfied community expectations to date.

HADRG questions whether the project is genuinely actionable and of sufficient benefit to SA electricity consumers, especially given the current "*cost of living crisis*".

ElectraNet NTx team Community Consultation to date:

NTx South community dissatisfaction with the community engagement process – **see submission documents for concerns prior to 31 October 2025.**

Failure to connect effectively with all potentially affected residents/landowners in all 5 corridors.

ENet alleged “30,000 mail outs to 4 corridor areas” - didn't reach recipients. Very few people report receiving them. Stacks visible in Post Offices undistributed.

(Possibly due to Australia Post policy)

Selective direct phone contact and personally addressed letters to a few affected landowners, ignoring side by side neighbours in the corridor.

ElectraNet “Expected that the word would get out between neighbours”

Actionability of the NTx in doubt

HADRG notes that ElectraNet's Jan 2026 stage 1b application report states on page 6 that AEMO has

...." raised questions over the future actionability of NTx"

Reduced justification for NTx to supply energy to Whyalla Steel works.

The case for building the NTx to supply Whyalla via Renewables and Green Hydrogen weakened this week with announcements by SA Minister for Energy and Mining regarding the use of South Australian gas for steel making steel at Whyalla Steelworks—agreement signed with SANTOS today 20/02/2026

“Santos has executed a binding term sheet with the South Australian Government for the long-term supply of gas to support the transformation of the Whyalla Steelworks into a low-emissions green iron facility, subject to certain conditions. Key features of the transaction are:

- *10-year term for 20PJ of gas per year*
- *Delivered ex-Moomba*
- *Indexed pricing with prepayment structure, consistent with industry norms*
- *First gas 1 March 2030 coinciding with expiry of Santos' Horizon contract with the GLNG joint venture.*

This agreement will support the long-term future of the Moomba Central Area of the Cooper Basin in South Australia, operated by Santos.”

<https://www.santos.com/news/santos-agrees-key-terms-with-south-australian-government-for-200pj-of-gas-over-10-years-from-2030/>

NSW section of Project Energy Connect is facing cost blow outs and pushback from consumers including large industry:

HADRG notes also that in 2 articles in the AFR on 17 February 2026:

The economic case for the NSW end of Project Energy Connect is "**reasonably thin**" <https://www.afr.com/companies/energy/grid-owner-wants-consumers-to-wear-1-1b-cost-blowout-20260213-p5o20q>

And

“Electricity consumers and experts say the rules for assessing and approving major transmission projects need to be overhauled to avoid billions of dollars of extra costs falling on households and businesses, causing them to turn against the energy transition. Transgrid’s application for approval [to pass \\$1.1 billion of overruns](#) on a new transmission project to customers has raised anger and concern among energy users, said Andrew Richards, head of a lobby group representing large industry.”

<https://www.afr.com/policy/energy-and-climate/1b-transgrid-blowout-bill-could-be-painful-price-of-transition-20260217-p5o2z6>

Future Redundancy of existing short lifespan renewable energy generators and energy storage.

Short lifespan of wind farm, Solar farms and batteries in the region (10 - 25 years) compared with 55 years for NTx.

Realistically will the renewables sites be repowered in the future after the current projects reach end of life?

Will nuclear and more gas come into play?

Will the NTx be a white elephant after 20 or so years or even earlier?

Enormous cost to SA electricity consumers for what benefit?

Lack of Economic justification for the NTx -

AER’s role is “to ensure consumers pay no more than necessary”

ElectraNet has failed to provide accurate detailed technical information requested.

Equivalent Transmission Service Providers in other states are far more transparent regarding Technical constraints for farming, hazards, and compensation frameworks.

These are freely available for other jurisdictions online – why is ElectraNet declining to provide them for SA?

Hansborough and Districts Residents Group supports:

New dispatchable generation - gas or nuclear located near demand centres eg Whyalla, Iron Triangle, Metropolitan Adelaide (not hundreds or thousands of km away).

Thank you for considering our submission

Mary Morris

Secretary- Hansborough and Districts Residents Group

██████████
████████████████████
██████████

31/10/2025

From Hansborough and Districts Residents Group

Chair: Condor Laucke [REDACTED]

Secretary: Mary Morris [REDACTED]

To Dave Hansell

NTx Project Director, ElectraNet

Our Community group of over 300 members was formed in 2011 to inform and advocate for our local Community and Environment on matters that were of interest and concern to them.

The NTx project first came to our attention in early May.

We have engaged solidly with the local and surrounding communities for almost 6 months.

The private Eudunda and Mid North Districts NTx Community Response Facebook was formed to share information and gauge community views about the proposed NTx corridors in our region.

In early October 2025 we initiated a community led survey to gauge our wider communities' attitudes to the NTx South.

An Interim report summarising the results of the Survey is attached as well as a pdf of the Survey form.

We are aware that a number of landowners with land in both the Western corridors and in the low rainfall pastoral area East of Goyder's Line have offered access to the Pastoral Land for an alternative corridor. We urge ElectraNet to further investigate the "East of Goyder's Line" options that are available.

All four corridors have united in a common purpose – to ensure that the highly productive Agricultural cropping lands and their associated rural communities that contribute so much to our State's economy can continue to **thrive without the unnecessary impediments, restrictions and hazards** imposed by High Voltage Transmission Lines.

For the reasons outlined in the attached Interim Report, this wider Community **does not grant ElectraNet the social license to pursue these 4 corridor options** for the NTx South through the Lower and Mid North Districts.

The certain impacts to our current and future Precision Agriculture, Tourism, Population Growth are too great an imposition on our economic and social wellbeing. An alternative route must be developed.

Mary Morris – Secretary, Hansborough and Districts Residents Group

2 Attachments :

Eudunda and Mid North Districts NTx Community Response Interim report; and
Community Survey form

Eudunda and Mid North Districts NTx Community Response Survey

Hansborough and Districts Residents Group and Residents of the wider Lower and Mid North Community. Secretary Mary Morris [REDACTED] Co-authored by Sarah Binns. 31/10/2025

The **Eudunda and Mid North Districts NTx Community Response Survey** was launched by **Hansborough and Districts Residents Group** on 8 October 2025 at a Town Hall meeting in Eudunda. Approximately 70 local community members from the regions attended.

The purpose of the survey was to understand our own communities' attitudes to the 4 corridors options for ElectraNet's NTx South Transmission line.

We knew that people were providing input to ElectraNet's consultation process via the NTx website, but what were they saying?

Pins left on the ElectraNet Mapping Tool disappeared from public view once submitted. ElectraNet's "What we've heard" reports mainly related to workshops they had carried out with Government Agencies and Industry bodies, but where was the feedback from the ordinary people?

What were the people in the firing line of these corridors actually saying and why?

The Community led survey was designed to combine community responses to the NTx South to inform ElectraNet, Local Councils, Community Management Committees, Grain Producers SA, Media and the general public.

Access to the survey was freely available to everyone and anyone in the wider community via: hard copy paper versions distributed at the Eudunda meeting; subsequent follow up town hall meetings at Marrabel and Riverton; at local businesses in 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. We gratefully acknowledge the administrative support provided by the Frome Electoral Office for printing, receiving survey responses and collating the data independently of our group.

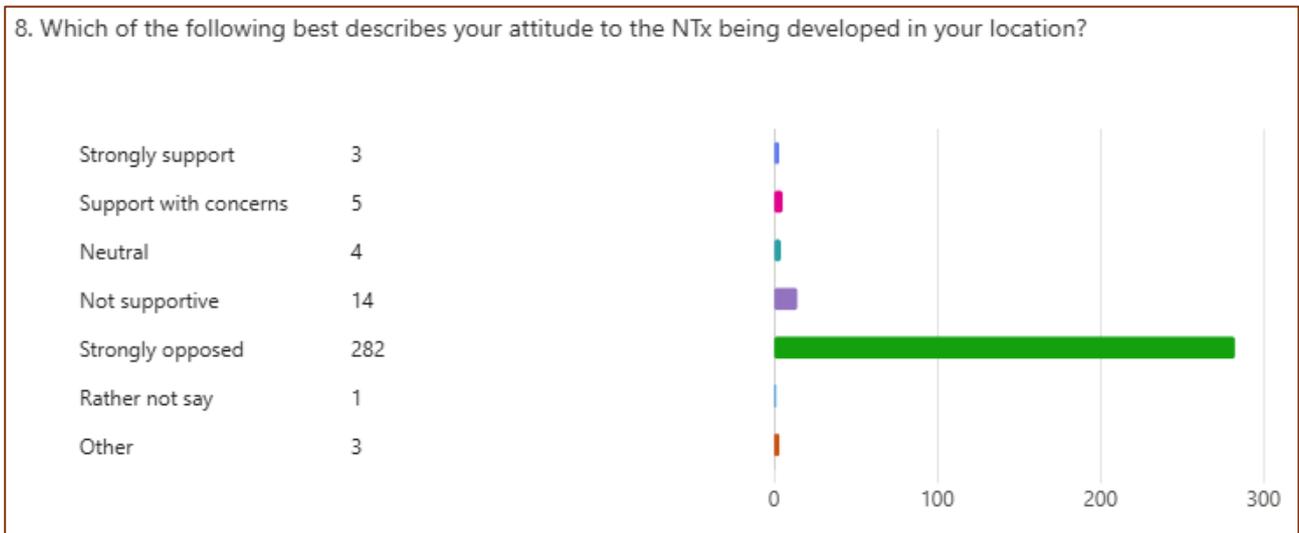
Community led public meetings have been held in Eudunda, Marrabel and Riverton to gauge the attitudes of local communities including residents, landowners, organisations, and business owners located within the current four proposed corridor areas defined by the NTx project website (NTx Project, n.d.).

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”

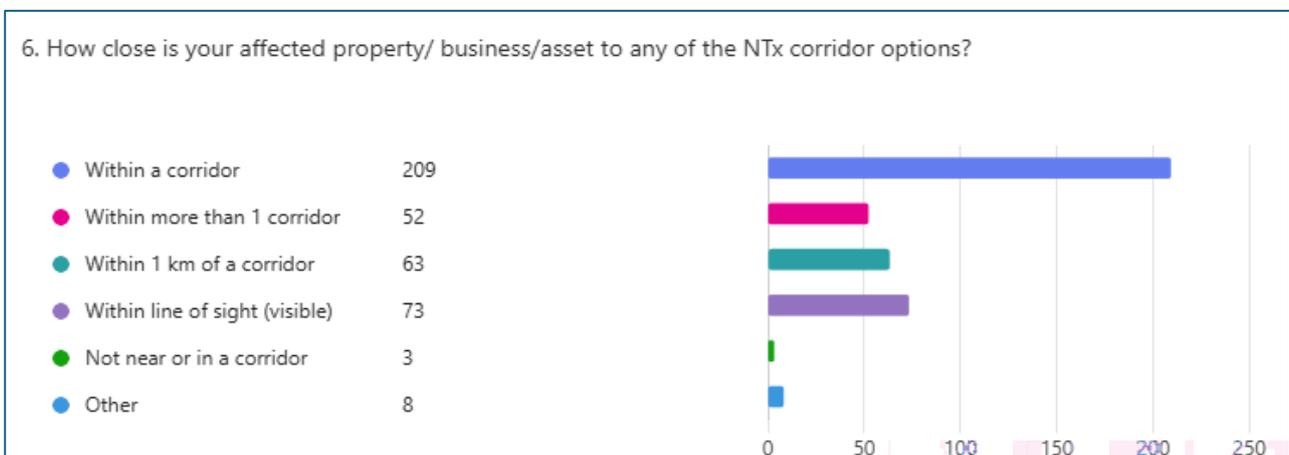


Location relative to a corridor

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”.



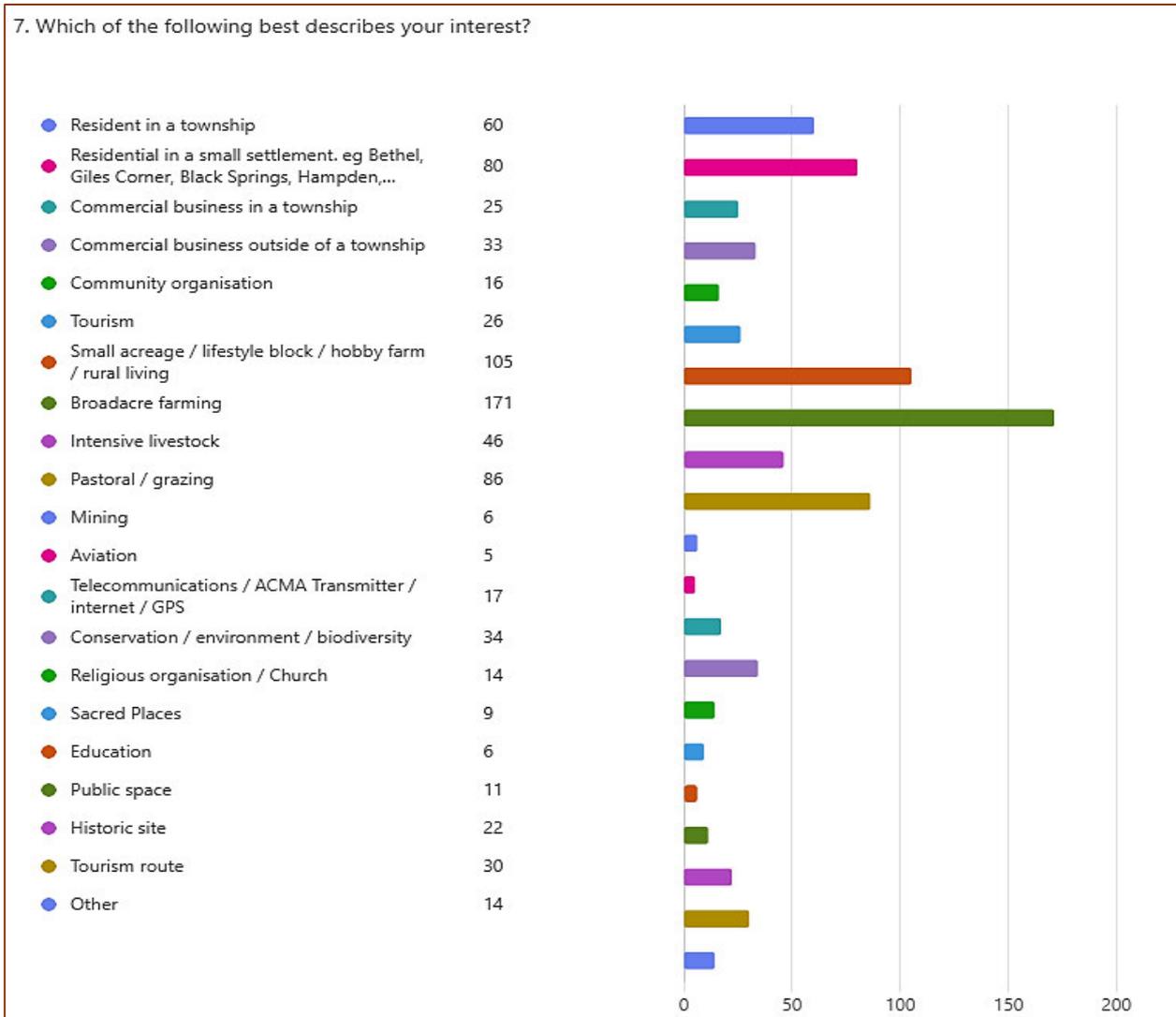
Issues people were commenting on

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.

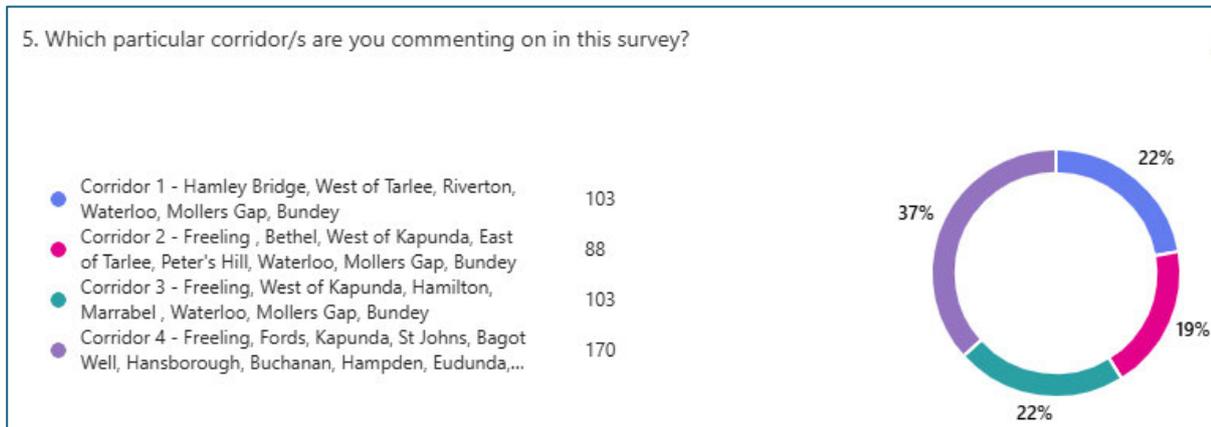
Pastoral and Grazing and Intensive Livestock also ranked highly as an area of interest with 86 and 46 respondents respectively.

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 grow 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 least 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 pertentcally closing thr 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

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.

Eudunda & Districts Coordinated Community Response Survey - Northern Transmission Project

This is a community led survey organised by Hansborough and Districts Residents Group to find out community attitudes to ElectraNet's proposed NTx corridor options between Templers and Bunday. **Closes: Friday 17 October.** Information collected in this survey will be used to form a Coordinated Community Response (CCR) which will be submitted to ElectraNet. The CCR can also be provided to organisations such as Local Councils and Community Management Groups to inform any future responses to ElectraNet on behalf of local communities.

Survey forms can be handed in tonight, to Good Karma Kafe, Eudunda or 2B Nourished, Kapunda or email to: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Mary Morris

1.Name _____

2.Email _____ Phone _____

3.List the townships, suburbs or localities relevant to your property or your interest in the NTx

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

- Corridor 1 - Hamley Bridge, West of Tarlee, Riverton, Waterloo, Moller's Gap, Bunday.
- Corridor 2 - Freeling, Bethel, West of Kapunda, East of Tarlee, Peter's Hill, Waterloo, Moller's Gap, Bunday.
- Corridor 3 - Freeling, West of Kapunda, Hamilton, Marrabel, Waterloo, Moller's Gap, Bunday.
- Corridor 4 - Freeling, East of Kapunda, Bagot Well, Hampden, Eudunda, Point Pass, Australia Plains, Bunday.

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

- Within a corridor
- Within more than 1 corridor
- Within 1 km of a corridor
- Within line of sight (visible)
- Not near or in a corridor
- Other _____

6.Which of the following best describes your interest in the NTx?

- Resident in a township
- Residential in a small settlement. eg Bethel, Giles Corner, Black Springs, Hampden, Point Pass, Bagot Well, Julia, Marrabel, Tarnma, Australia Plains, other.
- Small acreage/lifestyle block/ rural living
- Commercial business in a township
- Commercial business outside of a township
- Community organisation
- Tourism business
- Tourism attraction / route
- Broadacre mixed farming
- Intensive livestock
- Pastoral / grazing /outside Goyder's Line
- Mining
- Aviation
- Telecommunications / ACMA Transmitter / internet / GPS/TV/Radio/UHF/
- Conservation / environment / biodiversity
- Religious organisation / Church
- Sacred Place
- Education
- Public space
- Historic site
- Other _____

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

- Strongly support
- Support with concerns
- Neutral
- Not supportive
- Strongly opposed
- Rather not say
- Other _____

8.Has your Local Council been engaged with community concerns about the NTx? Yes No Not sure

9.How would you like your Local Council to respond to the NTx issues raised by your local community?

10. What do you think are the positives of the proposed NTx for your situation?

11. How do you think the positives can be increased?

12. What do you think are the negatives of the proposed NTx for your situation?

13. How do you think any negatives can be overcome?

14. Have you signed up for updates from ElectraNet ? Yes No

15. Have you been happy with how ElectraNet have provided updates and carried out community engagement?

Yes No **Please give reasons.**

16. Do you have any suggestions for how ElectraNet could improve how they engage with local communities?

17. Is there any additional information you would like ElectraNet to provide that has not yet been made available?

18. Any other comments?
