

I am writing to raise some issues with the Transgrid – Humelink contingent project application.

We are directly impacted landholders along the Tumut North route, and as such we became aware that we were in a proposed corridor in September 2021. The engagement process has not been clear and transparent at all. We have had to wait months for information requested regarding easement management and the decision making process. In early April when the preferred route was chosen we were promised updated maps within the week, we are yet to receive these. I have also attended a CCG meeting as a spectator. Transgrid staff did not directly answer many of the questions, saying they would check and get back to them with the answer. Treating landholders and communities with such disrespect has not given us the chance to provide real feedback, have questions answered or build any kind of relationship for social licence or legacy. We have also not received any information on the compensation process and options, which we need to best judge the full and long term impact to our business.

Transgrid also promised to genuinely consider building using the underground option if the feasibility scoping report recommended it. How can the costs of the project have been calculated accurately when this process is still underway? Unless Transgrid have no intention of seriously considering the scoping report outcome? It is processes and decisions like this that make landholders and communities question the transparency of the whole process.

We are also concerned about the price of this project to us and many other families and small businesses. As the project is currently proposed it will cost farmers thousands of dollars per year in production losses and land devaluation. Where are these costs included in the projected cost to consumers? From the information we have seen, farms and communities are not considered as constraints or valued in the route cost analysis.

These issues need to be addressed before Transgrid can be deemed to have transparency with consultation and accurately calculated the cost of the project and the cost to consumers.

Regards,
Rachael Purcell

Braeburn Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Cockatoo Road, Killimicat, NSW.