W G & A M Lack
"Felton View"
M S 465
CAMBOOYA Q. 4358

28 March 2003

DOC MAR PRISM:

Mr Sebastian Roberts
Acting General Manager
Regulatory Affairs – Electricity
ACCC
PO Box 1199
DICKSON ACT 2602

Dear Mr Roberts

We would like to comment on the ACCC's Review of the regulatory test for electricity investment.

We live in Queensland and own farming land in the Felton Valley near Toowoomba. Farming is our livelihood and like many of our neighbours feel that we're being harassed by the prospect of high voltage transmission line proposed by Powerlink to be erected across our absolute prime fertile cultivation lands to connect the Millmerran Power Station to Middle Ridge substation (Toowoomba) and beyond at a later date.

We have consulted with the Powerlink representatives and discussed these issues at great length, but find that they refer to the cheapest cost to community and that ACCC plays a great part in the roll, and they have rules to follow.

Australia's agriculture plays a large part in Australia's economy and farmers like myself play a part in the local economy. If there is a downfall in the farming sector it flows onto the rest of the community.

Australia is a large place but the amount of pristine land such as in this area is a very small percentage and needs protecting. Australia's population is growing and there is the need for electricity, the worst scenario that could happen in our farming environment is that at a later date another transmission line could follow on this same easement, this would be totally devastating to farming cultivation areas, if the first proposal takes place in its present form.

We feel that alternatives need to be looked at and accessed such as:

- 1 Underground power
- 2 Other easements
- 3 Use existing easements
- 4 Follow roads
- 5 Railway lines



The cheapest cost now may not be the cheapest in the long term. The whole community is unhappy with the Powerlink proposals and issues like compensation, effects on farming practices, grazing, land valuation; property development and investment may not be accessed to a true value.

I feel that the ACCC make sure that the actual cost to effected landholders and communities be accounted for.

Sincerely

Wayne and Aileen Lack

W.G. Lade