



11 February 2021

The Hon. Rob Stokes MP
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Minister

Snowy 2.0 Transmission Infrastructure

We write to you regarding the Snowy 2.0 project in the Kosciuszko National Park and ask you to ensure that the transmission infrastructure for the project is buried underground.

Kosciuszko National Park is a place of significant environmental, scenic and cultural value. It supports threatened and vulnerable species, rare ecosystems, majestic landscapes and Aboriginal heritage. It is a world-class national park.

We were recently alarmed to learn that TransGrid proposes to connect Snowy 2.0 with overhead transmission lines through this pristine national park wilderness. We understand the transmission lines will be suspended on sets of massive steel lattice towers up to 75 metres high and require easements up to 200 metres wide, meaning one square kilometre of national park is to be cleared.

Such an impact on rare national park is unheard of anywhere else in any modern progressive democracy and in the absence of every effort being taken to avoid the use of overhead transmission, to proceed, could be seen as wilful vandalism.

Technology exists to bury the infrastructure underground and significantly reduce the project's environmental impacts. We understand there are a number of ways to do this, including connecting a tunnel to existing substation infrastructure at Lower Tumut. This option also opens up opportunities to shorten and rationalise the proposed HumeLink project, significantly reducing its impacts on local communities and landholders over hundreds of kilometres, as well as Bago State Forest. Not only would there be substantial community and environmental benefits, but New South Wales electricity consumers would face lower costs.

Any additional costs incurred from undergrounding transmission infrastructure must be assessed in the context of massive long term savings from lower maintenance and higher reliability, without risks from bushfires or lightning. The recent 'black summer' bushfires took out the connection between New South Wales and Victoria and burnt electrical equipment in the Snowies, causing tens of millions in damages and losses from constrained generation. Overhead lines also threaten to complicate fire-fighting efforts by interfering with road and air operations.

We believe it would be short-sighted to build such industrially intense infrastructure through this scenically beautiful and biodiverse-rich national reserve, leaving a greatly diminished legacy for future generations.

We urge the NSW Government to direct TransGrid to underground the transmission infrastructure for the Snowy 2.0 project.

Yours Sincerely



Greg Piper, MP
Member for Lake Macquarie



Alex Greenwich, MP
Member for Sydney



Dr Joe McGirr, MP
Member for Wagga Wagga



Justin Field, MLC
Member of Legislative Council