

Community Engagement Review

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 28 September 2023 4:32 PM
To: Community Engagement Review
Subject: Submission to the Community Engagement Review

I am a member of the Australian community. I do not knowingly hold any shares in a company engaged in the development of renewable energy infrastructure, nor in a company engaged in the mining and primary consumption of non-renewable energy sources.

However, I am a firm believer that Australia should shift to renewable energy sources not in some vague future, but in the near future - i.e. in the next couple of years. For that to happen, clearly suitable infrastructure must be built - the current grid was built for coal power, not renewables, and unless new transmission lines are built we will not be able to connect renewables into the grid.

It is abundantly clear that Australia, and the world, is in the process of losing the race to reduce emissions and keep global warming within 1.5 degrees. The opportunity to do only a little towards reducing emissions has gone; we now must address the elephant in the room, and get emissions down by any and every means possible. It is not enough to rely on small rooftop solar systems, there is a desperate need to large-scale renewable energy infrastructure. This includes the means of transmitting the power to where it is needed, not just its capture from sun, wind or whatever.

Hosting renewable energy infrastructure can provide steady income streams for farmers. Hosting transmission lines, solar or wind farms can add to the strength of farming businesses, not detract from them. Farmers along planned routes should receive payments for hosting the infrastructure that are fair and enable all farms to continue to be productive through dual land use design.

Poorly sited and planned renewable energy and transmission development will have impacts on land and nature. We must take measures to avoid and minimise these as much as possible. If poorly planned, transition to clean energy will have impacts on people, land and nature. But the impacts of catastrophic climate change will be astronomically more damaging. As such, governments must ensure policies, frameworks and planning regimes for clean energy development robustly consider, avoid and minimise impacts on people and nature.

Communities can benefit from clean energy development if it is done in a way that is just, equitable and sustainable. This means engaging and sharing benefits with communities, so that support among host communities is supported. Project proponents have a key role in ensuring transmission projects deliver for people and nature.

Communities hosting transmission lines must be involved in pre-decision planning to ensure local impacts are minimised and genuine benefits achieved. Transmission companies have a responsibility to ensure that the people who are directly impacted, including Traditional Owner groups and local environmental groups are active participants in the planning process.

State and Federal Governments must make sure nature, communities, workers and consumers are protected as we transition away from fossil fuels.

We are already well behind where we need to be after ten years of inaction at a Federal level. We are way behind other countries in building the transmission and renewable energy we need to stop burning coal and gas. We need all hands-on deck to ensure we can meet our climate targets while ensuring people and nature are protected.

Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]