

Gillam Farms

Chris and Christine Gillam

'Irwin Park'

PO Box 444

Dongara WA 6525

Mr Robert Pullella

Executive Director – Competition, Markets and Electricity

Economic Regulation Authority

6 th Floor

Governor Stirling Tower

197 St Georges Tce

Perth 6000

RE: Western Power 330kV Mid-West Augmentation

I write on behalf of my family and I as landowners whose properties are located within the proposed corridor and alternatives considered for the Eneabba to Moonyoonooka transmission line. This letter has been written with help from WAFarmers who were previously misled in their communications from individuals within WAFarmers membership and the Midwest Powerline Action Group.

We wish to express our concern at the recommendation contained within the submission lodged by WAFarmers (posted on 16 November on the ERA website) which is not truly reflective of the views of the local community as a whole. As members of WAFarmers and the Midwest Powerline Action Group, we do not believe that our views have been adequately reflected in the WAFarmers submission and we take exception to the proposal therein that the

ERA not support the proposed corridor. Shifting the proposed corridor will still result in farmland being impacted; shifting the powerline route is only a solution to those being impacted at present. The powerline cannot get to Moonyoonooka without passing through broadacre farmland.

If the powerline is shifted to another Route this will only move the impact from one farm to another. We have expressed this concern to WA Farmers who unfortunately were under the impression that the view with which they were originally canvassed on behalf of the Mid West Power Action Group was that of all members. After consultation with more members, the WA Farmers are now aware that this original letter did NOT represent all farmers nor all view points of WA Farmer members or members of the Mid West Power Action Group.

The critical issue for the ERA to address in their Inquiry is the provision of equitable compensation for affected landowners following the construction of the 330kV powerline.

- Adequate compensation in the construction phase
- Compensation for extra maintenance of areas immediately surrounding towers.
- Compensation for disruption to farming practises evident now and in future technology developments.
- Ongoing lease payment commensurate to the earning ability of the individual towers.

I generate eighty percent of my overall farming income from my cropping enterprises, with the remaining twenty percent generated from my livestock operation. At times during the debate regarding the placement of the 330kV powerline there has been a view put forward that those involved in broadacre cropping are more heavily impacted upon than livestock farmers by the placement of powerlines. History disputes this claim. History shows that the greatest impact of Western Power on agriculture occurred with the retention of

pesticides residue in livestock as the result of pesticide spraying work carried out around the power poles. Whilst this threat is unlikely to be repeated, the risk remains to livestock with the requirement to protect the towers. Farmers in this area, which is suitable for both livestock and crop production, will continue to produce both. They will alter the business mix to reflect the net returns available from either livestock or cropping as the market determines. I think the point to be made here is that whether a farm is in the livestock rearing industry or broadacre cropping (most farms in the area are involved in both) the powerline will have considerable impact on the operation of the business.

The process Western Power undertook was an honest attempt to engage and consult with the community. Though there may have been flaws in the consultation process, I believe it was a credible effort by Western Power to consider the best Route for all stakeholders. I refer to the effort by Western Power to avoid selecting a Route that passed close to residential homes and / or workplaces.

In conclusion, we would like to state our full support for the selected Route and thank Western Power for its ongoing consultation. (It should be noted the selected route does go through our farming enterprise, however we feel the selected Route is far more appropriate than any other discarded, alternative Routes.) We would also like to echo other submissions in calling for fair and reasonable compensation for landholders impacted on by the power line.

Yours faithfully,
Chris Gillam

Gillam Farms

Member of WA Farmers Federation

Member of the Mid-West Powerline Action Group

This submission has the support of following neighbours.

Mr Craig Forsyth

Member W.A Farmers Federation Ph. 0899275035

Mr George Roberts Ph 0429979529

Mr Robert Gillam

Member Midwest Power Action Group Ph 0899275026