

Hon Stephen Robertson MP Member for Stretton

Your ref: Petitions Our ref: CLLO/ 09067

27 NOV 2009

Mr Neil Laurie The Clerk of the Parliament Parliament House Cnr Alice and George Streets BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 16 September 2009, forwarding petition number 1212-09 on the subject of construction of high voltage overhead power line (Loganlea to Jimboomba upgrade) along and across the Logan River and the Logan River floodplain. I have considered the petition carefully and am pleased to provide my response.

The Logan area has been identified as one of the fastest growing areas in south east Queensland. Due to this rapid growth and the attendant increase in energy consumption, the region's electricity supply network is reaching capacity and requires reinforcement to continue the provision of a reliable and safe electricity supply to residents and businesses in the area.

ENERGEX is proposing to construct a 110 kilovolt (kV) powerline from Kingston Substation, at Chambers Flat Road, to Jimboomba Substation, on Camp Cable Road, Jimboomba. The proposed new 110 kV powerline will connect to an existing 110 kV powerline that runs between Kingston Substation and Loganlea Substation on Meakin Road, Loganlea.

ENERGEX has indicated its intention to request the land required for this project be designated as land for community infrastructure. Ministerial designation of land is a statutory process conducted under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* ('the Act'). As part of this process, ENERGEX is required to consult with a range of stakeholders about the proposed powerline route and to undertake a thorough environmental impact assessment for the project. This assessment will cover a wide range of issues including impacts on the health, safety, and amenity of the community and the natural environment.

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Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and Minister for Trade

LAID UPON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE 3 0 NOV 2009 MP 430 Clerk's Signature

Preliminary planning and research by independent consultants acting on behalf of ENERGEX identified potential corridors for the proposed powerline and a preferred route was selected based on an assessment of social, environmental and economic impacts.

In accordance with statutory requirements, ENERGEX released a Draft Initial Assessment Report (IAR) on 15 June 2009 that generated a total of 72 submissions. ENERGEX has advised it is now considering the community's feedback and how this may be incorporated during the planning process.

Submissions will also be considered in the preparation of the Final IAR and a second opportunity for public comment will be available after the Final IAR is released.

In deciding whether or not to make a community infrastructure designation, as Minister I must consider a number of matters set down in the Act. Amongst other things, I must be satisfied that there has been adequate environmental assessment and public consultation, and that adequate account has been taken of issues raised in submissions during the consultation. It is important that the statutory process be properly utilised so that decisions regarding designation of the land are fully informed and considered.

Therefore, I would encourage residents and stakeholders in the area to continue to participate in this consultation process. As ENERGEX is still undertaking the processes necessary to seek community infrastructure designation, it would be inappropriate for me to comment on specific matters.

Specific enquiries about the project can be directed to ENERGEX by telephoning 1800 095 223 or via the ENERGEX website at www.energex.com.au/network/loganlea_jimboomba_upgrade.html.

Yours sincerely

All

STEPHEN ROBERTSON MP