

Power to the People Action Group

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**COMMENT ON QUEENSLAND COMPETITION AUTHORITY – FINAL DETERMINATION-
ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION
DETERMINATION OF PRESCRIBED SERVICES.**

INTRODUCTION;

The Power to the People Action Group was formed in October 1999 in response to a Powerlink proposal to relocate the high voltage powerline alignment from its existing alignment to the populated farming and tourism coastal plains between Tully and Innisfail NQ.

Powerlink claims that it is bound by the National Electricity Code to build the cheapest powerline possible which on their assumptions is the proposed route. The additional cost of reconstruction on the existing route comes about by the conditions which could be imposed by the Wet Tropics Management Authority who now administer the land of the existing easement. This proposal has severe economic, environmental and social impacts for the residents of the communities of Tully Mission Beach and Innisfail.

The proposed transmission line services the Cairns and Northern regions and our group believes there must be provision in the Code: 1. For the added cost of new technology and, 2. Mechanisms in the Code where communities or individuals do not pay the price for cheaper power.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE CODE

Regulation must have regard to the need to provide incentives and opportunities to increase efficiency. Additional cost of new technology, which will initially be higher but will decrease in price as usage increases.

Other industries, communities and individuals should not bear the costs of cheaper infrastructures to achieve "rate of return" or distribution service pricing. I.e. primary producers, tourist operators or private individual land holders bearing the costs to their industry and devalued land values in the pursuits of cheaper infrastructure.

We also believe that there should be an avenue whereby other interested parties can seek to have a service excluded in circumstances where the DNSP does not have the incentive to make such an application.

An avenue for Fair, transparent and easily accessible case by case review of described service. Simple procedure for application by non-industry parties and individuals.

Abuse of Monopoly position by Government Transmission Corporation. Powerlink has based all figures in its document Review of Options on assumptions. Clear and concise documentation and methodology are not forthcoming or hidden under "Commercial in Confidence" even though

no competition exists. Our group is of the belief documentation does in fact not exist and that Powerlink operates loosely with assumptions and without accurate documentation to produce the result they require. This can be achieved as there is no second opinion or alternative quote. In effect it makes them judge and jury. Where a monopoly exists this monopoly should be required to make available detailed costing to the public This documentation should be transparent and written in simple language.

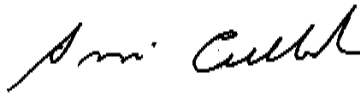
Practical guidance be provided to parties wishing to apply for the exclusion of certain services.

We also agree with Appendix B – Possible Excluded Distribution Services and would add to this list

Where a statutory authority can impose conditions upon a DNSP this added cost would qualify the associated works for exclusion.

Thanking you for this opportunity to comment

Yours faithfully,



SUSANN MC CULLOCH
SECRETARY