

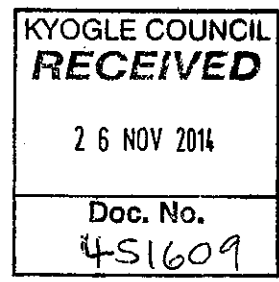
Item 13A.2



**TransGrid**

ABN 19 622 755 774

NORTHERN REGION  
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NSW 2298 Australia  
T 1800 222 537  
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The General Manager  
Att: Mr Jeff Breen  
PO Box 11  
KYOGLE NSW 2474

25 November, 2014

Dear Mr Breen,

Further to your letter dated 14 November 2014, regarding compensating the adjoining property owner located adjacent to the proposed Simpkins Creek Radio Repeater site, I can confirm that TransGrid is unable to offer compensation to this property owner.

Under the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991 (JTCA)* the person who has a right to compensation must be the owner of an interest in the land. Under TransGrid's policy only the registered proprietor of the directly affected land is eligible to compensation.

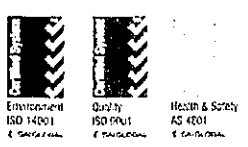
The adjoining landowner at the Simpkins Creek site is neither directly affected, or a registered proprietor or has a registered interest in the land.

Although TransGrid cannot compensate the adjoining landowner, it has endeavored to address the landowner's concerns and has made an offer to provide site screening to mitigate from the visual impact.

Further to this, we have also provided the attached background information about the project, and the site selection process for distribution to Councilors. We would also be happy to offer an in person briefing to council officers or councilors prior to the next meeting if required.

Yours sincerely,

Kenson Ho  
A/Team Leader Planning Approvals & Access



## **Background Information: Northern Telecommunications Link Project**

Under the National Electricity Rules TransGrid is responsible for the planning and development of the NSW transmission network to meet both the requirements of customers within the state and to facilitate the Australian National Electricity Market.

A crucial aspect of this responsibility is outlined in the Electricity Supply Act 1995, in which TransGrid is obliged to construct, operate, repair and maintain the NSW electricity network with the aim of promoting the efficient, safe, reliable and environmentally responsible production and use of electricity.

The Northern Telecommunication Link project is necessary to comply with TransGrid's obligations under the National Electricity Rules and Australian Energy Market Operator's Power System Data Communication Standard.

Communication upgrades are vital to assist TransGrid in remotely operating its 12,500 kilometres of transmission lines and substations in NSW, enabling power to be more reliably and safely delivered to the consumers.

### **Project need**

The Northern Telecommunication Link is required for compliance purposes to meet regulations set by the Australian Energy Market Operation (AEMO) to maintain a reliable telecommunications link as a secondary support system. A temporary system is currently in place.

To ensure it meets the required regulations TransGrid must establish the Northern Telecommunications Link as soon as practicable. The northern link will play a vital role in ensuring reliability of supply by creating a back – up link between Dumaresq and South Gundurimba and will complete TransGrid's communication network in the region.

### **Site selection process**

A comprehensive site selection process was completed for each of the six sites. Each site was required to meet a number of functional criteria to be considered. This included:

- Required "line of sight" to other sites
- Minimised disturbance of vegetation
- Access for construction and maintenance
- Practical access to power connection

Once a site had demonstrated potential to meet the functional requirements, it was tested against the construction and longer term impacts on the environment and the community. A series of steps were followed to assess and validate the suitability of each site.

**Initial site investigations** - Initial technical studies were undertaken to identify potential radio repeater site combinations to create a link between Dumaresq Switching Station and Lismore Substation.

**Selection of a preferred combination** - Further technical, line-of-sight and environmental investigations were undertaken to review constraints at each site option to reach a series of preferred locations that minimised impact.

**Review of site options** – Additional site and structure options were considered and tested for each site. At Simpkins Creek a combination of design options were further investigated as a result of the issues raised by the Mills family.

**Final site and alignment selection** – based on the information collected at each of the site selection stages, the six sites were determined and the required environmental and planning approvals were commenced.

The options considered at Simpkins Creek site included:

- a 15m pole on the top of the hill within the road reserve – this was the preferred option as it offered minimal environmental impact and was supported by Council;
- a 19m pole further down hill within the road reserve – this offered minimal environmental impact, and could reduce prominence of the structure for neighbouring properties, however it would require a taller pole;
- utilising an existing Telstra tower at Mallanganee range - to meet the functional requirements the tower would need to be 80m high. It was considered this proposal would have a greater visual impact to wider community, the site was close to residences, required a larger footprint and was not preferred by council.

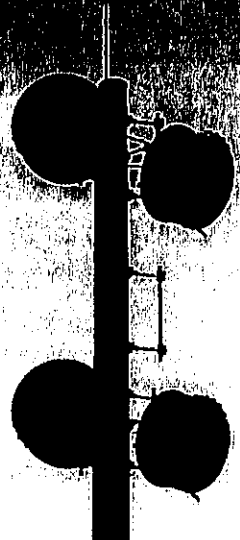
**Review of Environmental Factors (REF) process**

In accordance with Part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EPA Act) and *State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007*, a Review of Environmental Factors assessed the impacts associated with construction works, and was completed for each site.

The REF assessed the impacts of the construction and operation of the communication site upon environmental factors such as Topography, Soils and Land use; Hydrology and Water Quality; Noise; Air Quality; Traffic levels and Accessibility; Visual Amenity; European and Indigenous Heritage; Flora and Fauna; Contamination, Waste and Hazardous materials.

A summary of the REF documents are available on our website:

<http://www.transgrid.com.au/projects/projects/Pages/NorthernTelecommunicationsLink.aspx>



**FACT SHEET**

# Northern Telecommunications Link Project

The Northern Telecommunications Link Project involves setting up six new telecommunications sites to connect communication systems between Dumaresq Valley and South Gundurimbá.

**Who is TransGrid?**

TransGrid is the owner, operator and manager of the largest high voltage electricity network in Australia. TransGrid is a state-owned corporation that connects power stations to distributors. TransGrid transports electricity across New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory via 12,600km of high voltage transmission lines and underground cables as well as over 90 substations.

**Why is the project needed?**

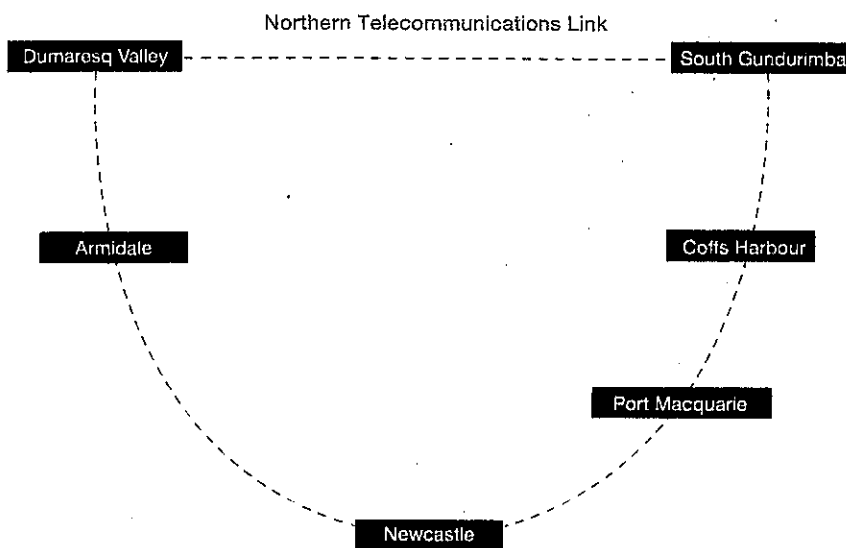
As part of TransGrid's responsibility to ensure the safe and efficient operation of the network, TransGrid uses remote communication technologies, which operate, protect and gather data from substations, equipment and transmission lines.

In establishing the communication links, TransGrid must follow regulations set by the Australian Energy Market Operator

(AEMO) to maintain telecommunications that will ensure reliability of supply.

To ensure it meets the required regulations TransGrid needs to establish the Northern Communications Link as soon as practicable. The northern link will play a vital role in ensuring reliability of supply by creating a back – up link between Dumaresq and South Gundurimba and will complete TransGrid's communication link.

**TRANSGRID'S COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK IN NORTHERN NSW**



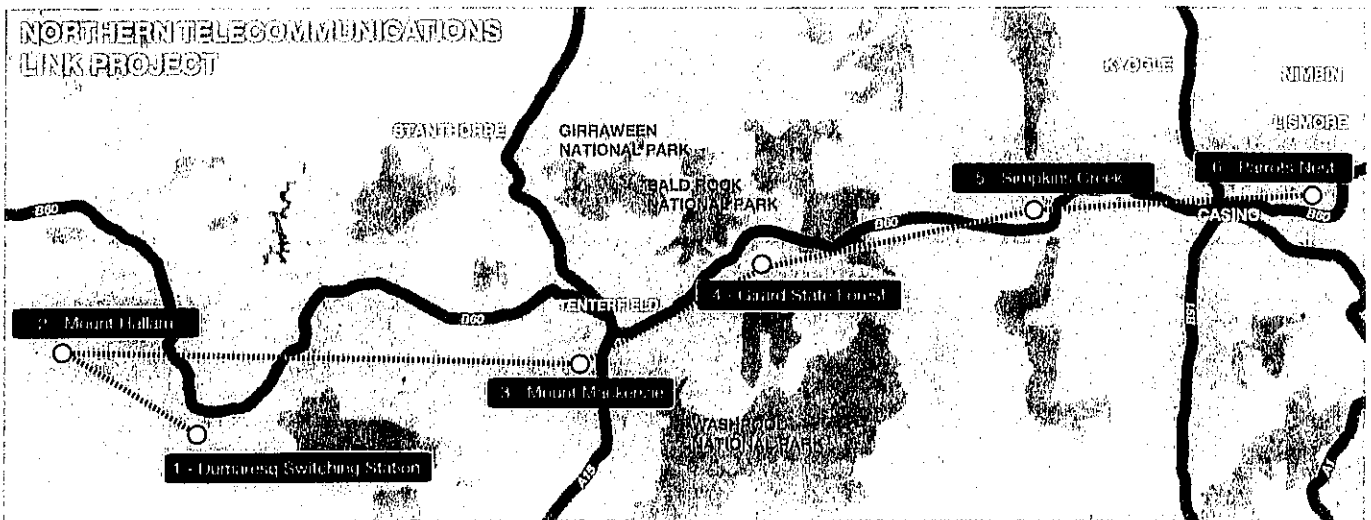
This diagram shows that TransGrid currently operates a 'U' shaped communications network in the Northern Region. By building the Northern Telecommunications Link we are connecting the network to complete the link system. A final link ensures TransGrid has a complete telecommunication back-up system for all its assets in the region.

## What does the project involve?

The project will involve setting up six telecommunications sites. The telecommunication sites need to link from TransGrid's Dumaresq Switching Station near Dumaresq Valley through to an existing telecommunications pole in South Gundurimba.

The new structures are planned for the following locations:

<b>Dumaresq Switching Station</b>	Build a new 60m tower
<b>Mount Hallam</b>	Build a new 35m pole and associated telecommunications shelter
<b>Mount Mackenzie</b>	Install antennae on existing Telstra tower and build a new telecommunications shelter
<b>Girard State Forest</b>	Build a new 35m pole and associated telecommunications shelter
<b>Simpkins Creek</b> (Richmond Range Road)	Build a new 15m pole and associated telecommunications shelter
<b>Parrots Nest</b>	Install antennae on existing pole



## What are the benefits?

The new telecommunication link will meet regulatory requirements set by the Australian Energy Market Operator and ensure TransGrid's commitment to provide reliable electricity supply to Northern NSW.

This new link will ensure there is an effective back-up system should one communications site be unable to operate.

## What happens next?

TransGrid has recently appointed a contractor to carry out design and construction for this project. Construction will take place over the next 12 months. The construction process involves a number of stages including laying foundations, setting up equipment shelters, the installation of poles and remediation work.

## How will this affect me?

Rural residents who live near the sites are likely to see our contractors on site over the next 12 months. The construction activity is expected to be low impact.

## How do I find out more?

TransGrid is committed to keeping the community informed about the project.

Regular community updates will be sent directly to affected landholders and those who register an interest in remaining informed as the project progresses.

For further information or to register your interest, please call a TransGrid Community Liaison Officer via our toll-free project hotline on **1800 222 537** or email **community@transgrid.com.au**.

For more information about TransGrid and work in your area please visit our website **www.transgrid.com.au**.

