

Transgrid/Powerlink
Project Specification Consultation Report
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22 February 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Transgrid and Powerlink project specification consultation report. Energy Infrastructure investments is the owner of the Directlink interconnector.

The Directlink interconnector consists of a 59 km, 180 MW High Voltage Direct Current interconnect running between Mullumbimby and Bungalora in NSW, a 110kV line from Bungalora to Terranora, NSW and a 132kv line from Dunoon to Mullumbimby.

EII is concerned with one of the "credible options" that is proposed in the project specification consultation report. Option 4B-HVDC between Mudgeeraba and Lismore, does not recognise Directlink is owned by EII and not in the control of either Transgrid or Powerlink. Option 4B-HVDC is therefore deficient as the option does not appear to include acquiring Directlink on commercial terms, a necessary precondition for dismantling it and using the easements.

No approach has been made to EII either to participate in this option or to request EII outline a price it is willing to sell Directlink to either Transgrid or Powerlink.

It is also necessary for clarity that in future discussions of this option that it is stated that the net increase in capacity for this option is 420 MW, the result of a 600 MW line being built and 180 MW capacity being removed.

EII/APA have continued to engage with Powerlink on a range of options in relation to interconnection between NSW and Queensland and looks forward to a greater range of these options, including options less expensive than those outlined, being reflected in future analysis.

EII looks forward to the Project Assessment Draft Report where the above factors are appropriately outlined and reflected in Transgrid/Powerlink's assessment.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Allen
Manager Regulatory