

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED] submission to the ELCC committee
Date: Tuesday, 3 March 2020 7:23:39 AM

Back ground:

When mains power was original introduced it was regarded as a luxury to many residential folks and a huge financial positive investment to energy hungry business. More recently Mains power has become essential to most services provided by both Government, their agencies as well as private industry.

Examples of essential services are those delivered by internet such as My Gov which is the tool for accessing all Centerlink information and reporting and My Aged for all retired people to access Government services. Infrastructure located on hilltops are required to provide coverage for wireless for all surrounding communications such as mobile phone, wireless and TV as well as for essential service communications. The recent fires have highlighted deficiencies in being able to provide power to many hilltop infrastructures to provide essential communication. Even our own Essential Services broadcast information to tune into your local ABC for regular updates and then do not have radio transmitters that work that folks can tune into.

I therefore propose a change / addition to the Clearance distances to powerlines to include something like "Power lines that provide power to essential services have clearance distances similar to that of Transmission lines"

I do not expect this to be implemented across the board due to many reasons, however I believe it should be discussed with the view of working towards providing the greatest level of power reliability to essential services to all in Victoria.

I also believe though that to have a resilient economy one must be profitable and to do that the Govt should protect the industries that provide the means of balancing the trade and the rural areas that provide the Primary industries are essential to keeping our economy strong. In this regard some rural areas are more critical than others and it would make good business sense to have regulation/policy to provide reliable power in adverse times to help protect our economy. At present there is not any emphasis put on different economic areas of Vic in relation to providing continuous power supply. I flag this for future discussion.

I do not use the word "Rural area" on purpose as I believe all humans lives are equal and the same regulations should be in place to help protect all.

Regards

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