

Questions to AusNet



Western Victoria Transmission Network Project

AusNet Community Drop-in Sessions - DARLEY

Monday 29th March Darley Park, Fitzroy & Grey St, Darley. Drop in anytime between 2.00pm – 7.00pm

These questions highlight community concerns with the proposed alignment between Darley and the Lerderderg State park. Focus on what is important to you. What upsets you the most?

Bushfire Risk

Why are AusNet building transmission lines in a known Bushfire Prone Area?

Why are AusNet building transmission lines close to Darley properties when the CFA will not respond to fires on, above or around the proposed 500kV high voltage lines?

Transmission lines crossing Merrimu Reservoir will render it inaccessible for fire-bombing. Why are AusNet putting lives and property at risk?

Search and Rescue

Search and rescue choppers fly at low level over the proposed corridor and land in the valley. How is search and rescue possible if the towers are built there?

Wedge-tailed Eagles

Wedge-tailed eagles are often seen flying at low level along the proposed corridor. Why would AusNet build transmission lines there when they are known to kill eagles?

Sensitive Use Buffer Zone

Bacchus Marsh Urban Growth Framework indicates a 500m buffer in the corridor between Darley and the Lerderderg State Park. How is AusNet allowed to build in a sensitive area?

Heritage Listed

The Lerderderg River is classified as a Heritage River and is protected under the Heritage Rivers Act 1992 (Vic) for its high conservation values. Why is AusNet planning to build in the vicinity of a Heritage Listed River?

The Lerderderg State Park is listed as a Significance Area. Why is AusNet planning to build towers near a park that is rich in culture and heritage?

Views and Lifestyle

Residents live in Darley for the uninterrupted views of the Lerderderg State Park and surrounding plains. Why does AusNet think it is acceptable to dominate this landscape with 85m high towers that will impact our views and property values?

Bald Hill Activation Project

The State Government is spending \$1.6M on a 1001 step walk to the summit and lookout points with spectacular 360 views. Why does AusNet think it is acceptable to destroy these views and tourism project?

Mental Health

The proposed alignment is having a severe and lasting impact on the mental health of residence. Why does AusNet not care about the impact this project will have on peoples lifestyle and mental health?

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There are many real underground Australian High Voltage DC examples, and many more overseas, we are arguing that the AEMO should stop the current project and properly investigate an underground High Voltage DC solution.

High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC)

So far, AusNet and the AEMO have pushed the benefits of an overhead High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) solution, while they have dismissed other options like High Voltage Direct Current and undergrounding on the basis of technical feasibility, cost, and by saying that undergrounding is worse than overhead for the environment.

These generalisations are wrong, and they are misleading.

Murraylink

Murraylink interconnector is an Australian underground HVDC transmission project which is both technically and economically feasible. It ships power efficiently underground for 177 km between Redcliffs, Vic, and Berri in SA.

The Murraylink design used existing rights of way along roadsides to minimise the environmental impact, and only required an easement of 6m wide, not 60 – 100m for overhead. It used horizontal direct drilling to get the cable under sensitive heritage sites and environmentally significant areas, and roadways, rather than digging through them. It even drilled under the Murray River.

Marinus Link

Marinus Link is a new project being proposed by AEMO for a second transmission link from Victoria to Tasmania. This is being proposed as an undersea High Voltage DC cable. what is significant for us here in Moorabool is that the Victorian portion of the project, which is 90 km in total in Gippsland, from the beach to Hazelwood, is going to be an underground High Voltage DC cable. The business case determined it would be more cost effective and technically feasible to continue with DC and to put it underground, rather than going overhead.

Questions About Undergrounding

Q: What is AusNet's position regarding undergrounding?

Q: Has AusNet or AEMO undertaken detailed cost benefit studies of underground (HVDC) vs aboveground? If so can we see the costing study? If not, why not?

Q: Has AusNet constructed underground 220 / 500kV lines? if so where and why?

Q: Why do AusNet not mention superior HVDC underground technology but only refer to putting the overhead High Voltage Alternate Current technology underground?

Q: Do AusNet realise that modern underground HVDC technology is being used worldwide and what they are proposing is old technology?

Q: If AusNet goes underground will you use an alternate route following existing easements such as highways.

Ways to Get Involved



Western Victoria Transmission Network Project

The only way to make a difference is to get involved. It's easy to sit back and wait for others to do something but when you are staring at 85m towers in a few years time, you will kicking yourself for not doing something when you had the chance. This is OUR only chance to prevent these towers so get involved now.

There are many ways you can help. Visit www.darleypowerfight.com.au/get-involved/ for more information.



Send a letter to decision makers

Show our decision-makers that people like you care about what happens to our environment. To make this process quick and easy, we have prepared ready-made letters you can sign instantly online or download and post if you prefer.



Share on Social Media

Help spread the word by sharing our website and Facebook group on social media. The more we all share, the more people will know about this campaign and the greater our chances of making a difference. Encourage everyone you know to get on board.



Spread the word

Not everyone knows about this project or the impact on our community. Help spread the word by telling your neighbours, family and friends. The more people involved, the louder our collective voice will be and the greater our change of being heard.



Join our Facebook Community

We've created a Darley Power Fight Facebook Community to share information, discuss ideas and voice our concerns. Invite your friends and family to join today. www.facebook.com/groups/darleypowerfight/



Sign up to our newsletter

Don't miss our email newsletter, where we share progress updates, important information and what is being done to protect our region.



Volunteer

Some volunteers help regularly. Others help out with specific projects or activities. There's always something happening and always work to do, we appreciate any assistance people can give.

Darley Power Fight is group of local residents in Darley, Coimadai and Merrimu. We are united against high voltage transmission towers passing through our backyard. We are working together and with the Moorabool Central Highlands Power Alliance (MCHPA) to increase pressure on AusNet and government to ensure alternate viable solutions are considered.

We came together through the realisation that a potential corridor passes right through the heart of OUR residential, significance areas, wildlife habitat and public open spaces. The irreversible impact on our property values, visual amenity, wildlife, environment and local community is huge.

The Moorabool Central Highlands Power Alliance represents the Moorabool Shire and Central Highlands inside and bounding the "area of interest" corridor. This group, via the Stop Ausnet's Towers campaign, is very important to ensure each region can connect and work with their local communities and fight as one under the MCHPA umbrella. www.stopausnetstowers.com.au