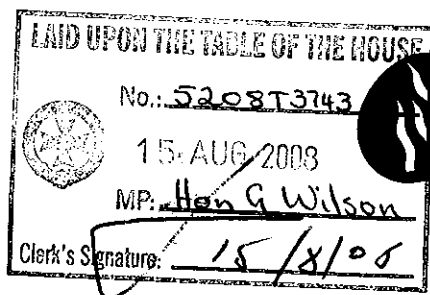




Hon Geoff Wilson MP
Member for Ferny Grove



**Queensland
Government**

Minister for Mines and Energy

Your Ref: 1000-08
Our Ref: ME/08/0352, MBN222

14 AUG 2008

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letters of 14 and 15 February 2008 concerning petition numbers 1000-08 and 1002-08 requesting an alternative route be found for the proposed Powerlink Woolooga to Cooroy 275 kilovolt transmission line. It would be appreciated if you would table my response on the Parliamentary website. I apologise for the delay in responding. As requested an electronic version of the response has been emailed to TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au.

Powerlink, in joint planning with ENERGEX, has identified the need to reinforce the bulk electricity supply network near Cooroy. This upgrade of the electricity supply is to meet the ongoing high growth in electricity demand in the Sunshine Coast, Gympie and surrounding area. To meet demand, Powerlink needs to construct a new transmission line from its existing substation at Woolooga, approximately 14 kilometres north west of Gympie to a proposed new substation at Eerwah Vale (named Cooroy South).

Powerlink has engaged independent environmental consultants, Parsons Brinckerhoff, to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed transmission line and to undertake consultation with landowners and stakeholders. No decision on the final alignment for the new line will be made until landowner and stakeholder consultation has been completed. This process includes members of the community being invited to make submissions to the EIS.

Apart from finalisation of the EIS, there are other processes to be completed before final determinations regarding this project are made. Powerlink has indicated that it intends to request Ministerial designation under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* of the corridor of land required for this project, as land for community infrastructure. In order to proceed with such a request, Powerlink will be required to formally advise landowners and stakeholders of its intention and provide a further opportunity for those parties to make submissions regarding the project. This would occur after the final EIS is released.

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Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geoff Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'G' and 'W'.

GEOFF WILSON MP
Minister for Mines and Energy