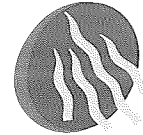




Hon Stephen Robertson MP
Member for Stretton



**Queensland
Government**

- 8 JUN 2010

**Minister for Natural Resources,
Mines and Energy and
Minister for Trade**

Your ref: Petitions
Our ref: CLLO/10042

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 21 May 2010 forwarding petition number 1421-10 on the subject of 'Stop installation of high voltage power lines through residential Gympie'. I have considered the petition carefully and am pleased to provide my response.

As a result of population growth and increased electricity consumption in Gympie and surrounding areas including the Sunshine Coast, electricity demand has increased. To ensure a reliable and safe electricity supply for the region, ENERGEX is planning to establish a new zone substation at Gympie North at an estimated cost of \$15.4 million.

The new substation will be installed at the corner of Pine and Woodbine Streets, Gympie North. This project will also involve:

- The construction of two separate 33 kilovolt feeders from the new Gympie North substation to the existing Gympie bulk supply substation located at the corner of Wises and Hambleton Roads; and
- One 11 kilovolt feeder from the Gympie North substation to the southern side of the Mary River.

At a public meeting on 21 April 2010, ENERGEX representatives provided details about the project and listened to residents' concerns. The meeting was attended by Mr David Gibson MP, Member for Gympie and Shadow Minister for Infrastructure and Planning; Mr Ron Dyne, Gympie Mayor; and about 40 local residents.

ENERGEX has advised they are currently reviewing the powerline routes and the method of construction, i.e. overhead versus underground.

Level 17
61 Mary Street Brisbane Qld 4000
PO Box 15216 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3225 1861
Facsimile +61 7 3225 1828
Email nrmet@ministerial.qld.gov.au

A commitment has been given by ENERGEX that it will not run overhead lines through the centre of Gympie. Further information will be provided to the community within the next few months.

I encourage residents and stakeholders in the area to continue to participate in this consultation process.

Specific enquiries about the project can be directed to ENERGEX by telephoning 1800 095 223.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Robertson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

STEPHEN ROBERTSON MP