



Teys is a Trademark of Teys Australia – A Cargill Joint Venture

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Submission: VNI West Consultation Report – Options Assessment February 2023 – Option 5

Summary

The purpose of the submission is to formally object to the proposed Option 5 of the Victoria – New South Wales Interconnector (VNI) West transmission line.

Teys partners with more than 7,000 Australian beef producers and employs more than 4,600 people across 15 locations in Australia. Teys produces approximately 1.7 billion beef meals, exporting to more than 60 countries. The Teys Charlton Feedlot is a key part of the beef supply chain in Victoria and Southern Australia with a capacity of 20,000 cattle and employing more than 30 staff.

Teys Australia operates the feedlot near Charlton for grain fed cattle with the premium meat exported to high value markets around the world. The alignment of transmission line at Option 5 threatens the viability of the feedlot to the detriment of cattle producers across south east Australia, and would adversely impact Teys' business and revenue.

For these reasons, Teys Australia does not support Option 5 alignment.

Key issues

Environmental impacts

Teys Australia owns more than 1,450 hectares of land at 224 Yeungroon-Woosang Rd, Yeungroon East VIC 3525, and operates a feedlot for grain fed cattle. The feedlot is operated pursuant to an environmental authority. The environmental authority requires Teys to employ a range of environmental controls and treatments for wastewater and solids. Teys Australia expects it will require additional land to facilitate those activities in the future.

If the transmission line proceeds along the Option 5 alignment, the transmission must not pass within five kilometres of the feedlot otherwise it will limit the ability of Teys to proceed with its long-term plans for sustainable development, including the construction of new buildings, facilities, wastewater treatment upgrade infrastructure and renewable energy (solar) generation.

Social Impacts

The transmission line must not impede the operations and future expansion of the feedlot without risking direct employment and the livelihoods of cattle producers across south east Australia.

Economic impacts

The construction of a new transmission line near the Charlton feedlot will significantly reduce the value of the Land.

Teys Australia intends to expand the Charlton feedlot in the future. It also intends to undertake further development on the Land to make its operations more sustainable, including the construction of solar panels. The new transmission line along the Option 5 alignment would severely prejudice those plans and Teys' future investment in the Charlton region.



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Teys also has serious concerns about the impact that high voltage powerlines may have on the demand for cattle produced at the Charlton feedlot. The Construction and Equipment Guidelines for Export Meat (Guidelines) issued by the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry are intended to inform plant managers, architects, engineers and consultants about the structural and equipment standards for export meat establishments in Australia. The principles contained in the Guidelines are applied in the assessment of submissions for approval of export registered meat establishments. The Guidelines require 'objectionable industries' within one kilometre of the external boundary of the premises to be shown on any plan accompanying a submission for approval (clause 2.4.6 of the Guidelines). It is Teys' view that the powerlines would constitute an 'objectionable industry' that must be disclosed in any submission for approval.

Teys Australia enjoys a reputation of being a 'clean and green' producer of meat. Importing markets such as developed countries in Europe and North America generally consider the existence of extremely low frequency-electro magnetic fields on land where cattle are produced as unappealing. Teys Australia has regular customer visits from key retailers, importers and buyers from around the world – the pristine Australian environment is a key selling point for Teys meat exports. A major electricity transmission line within sight of the Charlton feedlot undermines the key selling point of Teys (and Australian) beef.

For these reasons, Teys Australia does not support Option 5 alignment.

For further information please contact Mr Michael Rogers, General Manager – Corporate Affairs, Teys Australia on mrogers@teysaust.com.au or 0409 648 911.