

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

## SUBMISSION NUMBER: P268

**Name:** Glenda Watts, Donald Charlton Parish Council  
**Location:** Charlton, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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To whom it may concern

This is a formal submission from the Parish of Donald Charlton, the Anglican Church.

Our community strongly opposes the 500kV transmission lines which are proposed in Option 5. Our congregations, of which the majority are of farming background, are greatly disturbed by the lack of transparency and the rush to get the project up and going. Questions remain unanswered even though the submission time is drawing to a close. The confusion surrounding the closing date has caused almost as much anxiety within our community as proposal Option 5 itself. It is difficult to write 'thoughts' regarding a project with no information.

The wellbeing of our entire community has already been shattered by AEMO's apparent lack of respect and concern. This can only continue in a downward spiral for our farming community.

The loss of productivity and continuity in farming practices will cause a decrease in production and productivity, leading to depressed land values and poorer debt to equity ratios. The end result will be a devastating and irreparable impact on the enthusiasm of the next generation of farmers, the ones who are already – at great expense – embracing new technologies.

This will see increased bio-security risks from uncontrolled access to farm-land, noxious weeds taking hold in easements and burdening farmers with additional weed control and prevention costs, not to mention the risks that aren't yet fully understood; the impact of high voltage transmission lines on critical factors such as animal fertility and human mental health and well-being. Have these even been considered? It is absolutely critical these issues are given their deserved priority and consideration. How can they have a monetary value placed on them? Have you given this that deserved priority? I would be pleased to hear your process and your understanding of 'farming' – an understanding of farming in the true sense, is critical to this priority.

It is clear that Option 5 has failed to take into consideration any of our concerns mentioned above. Government bodies cannot make decisions on incomplete and flawed assessment and analysis; unless these and the many other concerns of the potentially impacted property owners are sufficiently addressed, Option 5 should be eliminated from any further consideration.

We, as a congregation continue to pray that this injustice to our fellow community members, farmers, business people, employees and their families, present and future, that our prayers be answered, thanks be to God.

Sincerely,

Glenda Watts

Donald Charlton Parish Council

Anglican Churches