

Submission on Supplement to Draft EIS

AA Powerlink Assets Pty Ltd – AA Powerlink Project

This submission is made under regulation 140 of the Environment Protection Regulations 2020

Government authority: Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade – Industry Development (Tourism NT)

Summary: Further information is requested in regard to the OHTL in relation to visual amenity.

Section of Referral	Theme or issue	Comment
Chapter 10 - Amenity 10.1 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment	Social impacts	<p>Tourism NT notes that the proponent has now undertaken a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). It is also noted that the Overhead Transmission Line (OHTL) tower height may also be adjusted to be higher (proposed to be up to 60 metres previously 44 – 56 m).</p> <p>The size and scale of the towers will represent a significant visual change along 722kms of the NT landscape for rail visitors and drive visitors along the Stuart Highway. The Stuart Highway from Adelaide through to Darwin is part of the Explorers Way drive route, it is the NT's most highly utilised tourism drive route which is travelled by a significant volume of self-drive and tour visitors to the Northern Territory every year.</p> <p>In reference to the LVIA, it would be beneficial if the proponent could provide a before/after simulated visual indication of the impact of a tower this size on sight lines at the viewpoints identified in the document. This is particularly important where the overall visual impact of the OHTL has been assessed as moderate, minor to moderate or minor and/or will be visible close to built up locations and the highway.</p> <p>The OHTL towers are substantially larger than standard power poles and taller than high voltage transmission towers with a visual representation necessary to perceive their scale. The absence of this in the LVIA means it is not possible to assess the impact of this project on amenity from a tourism perspective. Further information is required. We are aware that the final placement of towers may not have been determined, a best estimate of location at each viewpoint should be sufficient to enable the impact to be assessed.</p> <p>Additionally, more information around the potential for low frequency audible noise from the transmission line to impact surrounding areas would be beneficial in order to further consider any tourism impacts.</p>