
Good afternoon,

Overhead Transmission Line (OHTL):

The Overhead Transmission Line from the solar precinct to the Darwin Converter Site (788kms) may present a visual amenity issue for visitors travelling along the highway in the sections where the OHTL is near the highway or travellers using the railway on the Ghan. The size of the transmission line poles is substantially larger than regular power poles meaning the poles may be highly visible to travellers. Given the extensive length of the OHTL it has potential to impact the visual amenity of a large expanse of outback.

It was stated in the stakeholder consultation report at p. 47 that: "Stakeholders generally accepted the explanation that it was more expensive and disruptive to the environment to underground the cables and that underground cables also lose more energy than overhead lines" however, there was no further information provided in the EIS to expand on this explanation.

The EIS states that: "a fibre optic cable will also be installed within the cleared footprint for the length of the OHTL. This may be buried in the OHTL corridor to a depth of up 1.2 m or strung with the powerline." (Table 2.1 and page 2.2) As undergrounding the fibre optic cable would cause ground disruption, was it considered that if the fibre optic cable is to be buried the OHTL could be underground also?

Fishing:

The proponent states that: "The Subsea Cable System is expected to avoid high value fishing areas. Any disruption to recreational fishing is expected to be of a limited scale and duration. Sun Cable is doing further studies to understand whether its activities will impact on commercial fishing operations." (p.14)

It is recommended that any further discussions around the impact on fishing include fishing tourism operators. The appropriate representative body is the NT Guided Fishing Association (NTGFA).

Camps/Accommodation:

We note that accommodation for the OHTL workforce will be in either existing accommodation in service centres/towns or mobile fly camps. The Stakeholder Consultation report shows that the proponent has conducted stakeholder consultation in regions affected by the project and this has included consultation with tourism accommodation providers. Tourism NT recommends that the proponent also engage with Tourism Top End and Tourism Central Australia, as the two major tourism representative bodies of the project area. It is important that this consultation continue as the project advances to give as much notice as possible to businesses and tourism bodies in order to plan around any impacts this may have to availability of tourism accommodation in the region.

Regards, Valerie



Valerie Smith

Executive Director Industry Development

valerie.smith@nt.gov.au / [+61 8 8999 3939](tel:+61889993939) / [0401 115 670](tel:+61889993939)

Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade

Level 8, Charles Darwin Centre

19 The Mall, Darwin, 0800

GPO Box 1155, Darwin NT 0801

Corporate: tourismnt.com.au

Visit: northernterritory.com

