

From:
To: [Portfolio Committee 4](#)
Cc: [Mark Banasiak](#);
Subject: Inquiry - Follow up
Date: Friday, 25 July 2025 3:06:21 PM
Attachments: [RFS Dungowan Objection.pdf](#)
[Nundle Hanging Rock RFS.pdf](#)
[RFS Woolomin Objection.pdf](#)

Dear Margaret

During my evidence at the inquiry I was asked to follow up with letters that had been sent by our local RFS brigades re concerns about the HVTL's. attached . If you would like further detail I am sure each brigade would be happy to provide feedback.

Regards
Tim

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Tim White
President
Valley Alliance Inc

Our Homes, Land, Community and Future

Jacqui Gidley-Baird

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: Objection to Proposed Transmission Lines Traversing Dungowan in regards to fire and volunteer risk.

I am writing to formally object to the proposed transmission lines that are planned to traverse the Dungowan area. As a volunteer officer with the Rural Fire Service (RFS) and someone with firsthand experience in managing fire risks in this region, I have significant concerns regarding the potential dangers this project presents to our community and firefighting efforts.

1. High Fire Risk Area:

Dungowan is an area of high fire risk, exacerbated by its unique environmental factors. The region is known for its high iron ore content soils, which can attract dry lightning strikes, a common cause of bushfires. The Dungowan area is also a hot dry climate with dry grass and gum habitat which ignites and burns hot and fast. The introduction of transmission lines through this area increases the likelihood of electrical faults that could spark fires, particularly during dry conditions. This heightened risk must be thoroughly considered, as it poses a serious threat to lives, properties, and the environment. This would also put a risk to the reliability of power to the end user.

2. Risk to Volunteer Firefighters:

As a volunteer officer, I am deeply concerned about the increased risk this project poses to our firefighters. The presence of high-voltage transmission lines in an area prone to fires creates additional hazards during firefighting operations. We do not have the training or equipment to fight such fires and I doubt the willingness of our volunteers to respond to such an event. These lines can obstruct safe access and egress for fire crews, complicate suppression efforts, and increase the danger of electrocution or other injuries. The safety of our volunteers, who risk their lives to protect our community, must be a top priority in this decision-making process. I would be greatly concerned to respond to such an event and do not believe we would always be able to fully man a crew to respond.

3. Obstruction of Aerial Firefighting Resources:

The proposed path of the transmission lines will block critical access to Chaffey Dam which is vital for aerial firefighting operations. Aircraft, including water bombers and helicopters, rely on these sources to rapidly respond to and control fires. In the last extreme drought, chaffey was our only water source for fires (of which there were many). The proposed transmission lines would make it impossible to safely conduct aerial firefighting in certain areas, putting the community at even greater risk during a fire emergency.

4. Inadequate Consideration of Local Fire Risks:

The scoping report for this project fails to adequately address the specific fire risks associated with the Dungowan region. It does not provide sufficient detail on how the project will mitigate the increased fire hazards or how it will ensure the safety of both the local community and the volunteer firefighters who

serve them. Given the high fire risk in this area, it is crucial that these factors are thoroughly evaluated and that comprehensive mitigation strategies are developed.

5. Disruption to Local Fire Response Capabilities:

The proposed transmission lines could also disrupt local fire response capabilities by complicating access to key areas and creating barriers that hinder the movement of firefighting equipment. In a region where every minute counts during a fire emergency, any delay or obstruction could result in catastrophic consequences. The scoping report does not address how these disruptions will be managed or mitigated.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to reconsider the proposed transmission lines traversing Dungowan. This project presents unacceptable risks to our community, our environment, and the volunteers who work tirelessly to protect both. A more thorough assessment is needed—one that fully addresses the fire risks, considers alternative routes, and prioritizes the safety and well-being of all those involved.

Thank you for considering my objections. I trust that the serious concerns raised by our local RFS volunteers and the broader community will be given the attention they deserve in the decision-making process.

Sincerely,
Jacqui Gidley-Baird
Secretary
Dungowan RFS Brigade

2nd January 2025

Perry Stedman

Nundle RFS

To: Rural Fire Service North West NSW

Subject: EnergyCo Transmission lines surrounding Chaffey Dam

I am the Rural Fire Service Captain for the Nundle and Hanging Rock district and concerned residents within the community have brought to my attention some disturbing developments regarding the proposed EnergyCo transmission line placement around Chaffey Dam.

Chaffey Dam represents not only our communities but also additionally other local areas the largest reservoir of water catchment for fixed wing aerial fire fighting capacity. The Nundle district comprises considerable large areas of Category 1-bushfire prone zones with many inaccessible ridgelines and steep grazing hills that require extensive aerial support during bushfire periods.

The concerns raised constitute dual power line placement in close proximity to the water pickup point for the fixed wing aircraft, therefore greatly restricting or possibly eliminating the ability of fixed wing fire fighting capacity from the Chaffey Dam water source.

The proposed transmission line placement around Chaffey Dam and the subsequent reduced fire fighting capacities needs further investigation, a more thorough assessment is needed that addresses the associated districts fire risks and prioritises the safety and well being of its residents.

Sincerely,

Perry

3rd January 2025

Woolomin – Duncans Creek RFS

To Rural fire Service North West NSW

Subject: Proposed Energy Co transmission line – Chaffey dam and fire fighting capabilities.

As the fire captain for the Woolomin and Duncans Creek Rural Fire Service, I am writing on behalf of the community expressing concerns regarding the proposed transmission line placement around Chaffey Dam, through Duncans Creek farming residents and the surrounding Woolomin village community.

The community and local RFS members are very aware the district represents significant inaccessible bush fire prone areas and therefore the importance that the large water catchment of Chaffey Dam represents for aerial fire fighting capabilities during these critical times. During the last big drought Chaffey Dam was the only water source available for aerial fire fighting capabilities, therefore any proposed transmission line placement that affects the ability of fixed wing aircraft to access the water source will place undue risk on the whole community including assets, infrastructure, livestock and human life.

Additionally the proposed dual 500 kV transmission lines through Duncans Creek properties represents a catastrophic risk to the residents with the very real possibility of being trapped within the valley. The area is surrounded by steep and heavily timbered ridgelines with a narrow valley representing Category One-bush fire prone zones with only one road access point. In the event of large scale bush fire within the Duncans Creek community there will be no available on ground fire fighting assistance surrounding the transmission lines and possibly no fixed wing capabilities from Chaffey Dam.

The community is concerned and need some assistance from RFS in highlighting the reduced fire fighting capabilities the proposed Energy Co transmission line route imposes upon the residents.

Sincerely,

Nathan Moffat