



Hon Geoff Wilson MP

Member for Ferny Grove



**Queensland
Government**

Your Ref:

Our Ref: ME/08/1761, MC1233

Minister for Mines and Energy

10 NOV 2008

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
Parliament House
Cnr Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I am in receipt of Petitions number 1070-08 received on 3 June 2008 by the Queensland Legislative Assembly. I have considered the Petition carefully and in accord with the requirement of Standing Orders of the Queensland Legislative Assembly, I am pleased to provide my response to the Petition.

ENERGEX is proposing to extend the 110 kilovolt powerline from the Mudgeeraba Substation on the eastern side of the Pacific Motorway to a proposed new substation at West Tugun adjacent to the new desalination plant. The proposed powerline will augment the electricity supply to the rapidly growing southern Gold Coast area including the Tugun Desalination Plant.

ENERGEX is working alongside the Department of Main Roads, Queensland Rail and Queensland Transport in planning major infrastructure developments in the area in line with the South East Queensland Regional Plan. This Plan promotes co-location of infrastructure where possible and reinforces the Bligh Government's commitment to securing Queensland's future and building tomorrow's Queensland today.

As part of the planning process, ENERGEX is consulting with local residents, impacted landholders, community and other stakeholders, including the Gold Coast City Council and Members of Parliament, about the proposed powerline route.

ENERGEX has established a community reference group to provide further opportunities for community members and stakeholders to provide feedback on the project. ENERGEX has also established a Community Engagement Team (the Team) to answer any public queries. The Team can be contacted on freecall 1800 025 158 or by email mudgeerabatotugun@energex.com.au. Alternatively, details on the project can be accessed on ENERGEX's website at www.energex.com.au.

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Prior to ENERGEX making any decision on the preferred route, there are other processes to be completed before final determinations regarding this project are made. An Initial Assessment Report, which was developed for public consultation, closed on 10 October 2008. All submissions received by ENERGEX will be taken into account before the Final Assessment Report is developed.

In October 2008, ENERGEX also released for public consultation, information about the costs of undergrounding the project. This information was sent to landowners and various stakeholders and is also available from ENERGEX's website. The closing date for submissions is 21 November 2008.

ENERGEX has indicated that it intends to request Ministerial designation under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* of the corridor of land required for this project as land for community infrastructure. In order to proceed with such a request, ENERGEX will be required to formally advise landowners and stakeholders of its intention and provide a further opportunity for those parties to make submissions regarding the project. This would occur after the Final IAR is released.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geoff Wilson'.

GEOFF WILSON MP

Minister for Mines and Energy