




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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ADJOURNMENT

Nanango Electorate, Electricity Transmission Infrastructure

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (7.01 pm): During December and January when people across our state were focused on Christmas and new year, having a break from work and winding down, spare a thought for the residents of the Nanango electorate who had just found out about the state government's proposal to bring enormous electricity transmission lines right through their properties. There was no relaxing for them, just anxious thoughts and nights wondering if their rural homes, their properties and their businesses would end up in the path of the massive new 500-kilowatt transmission lines needed for the state government's newly announced Borumba Dam pumped hydro project. There are six four-kilometre-wide corridors that have been suggested for this project to connect Borumba Dam to the Woolooga Substation in the north and the Tarong and Halys substations in the south.

These corridor proposals affect my community in large parts of the north, east and central part of the Nanango electorate. I am fairly sure the state government and the Minister for Energy really do not understand how many people live in these areas and how this project will greatly affect their lives, so I back their calls for state owned land to be the first choice for the corridors and that all available technology and infrastructure is used to minimise the impact on private landholders, the environment and our traditional owners. It really is a case of 'out of sight, out of mind'. In response, my communities have rallied. In the north they have formed the Kilkivan Action Group, which is working alongside the communities from Widgee in the member for Gympie's area. There was a serious lack of communication with the residents of Kilkivan, with Powerlink, the government entity tasked with the transmission power project, acknowledging its poor handling of communication and that it needed to make improvements. This obviously was too late for the Kilkivan community, which felt ignored and overlooked even though the project is in their backyard.

In the south an action group has been formed by the residents of the Blackbutt, Benarkin and Taromeo areas. I have met with both groups to hear their concerns and support their calls for transmission infrastructure, if it is to be built, to be put on existing state owned land corridors including state forest. Both groups have had parliamentary petitions. The first just closed and has secured nearly 2½ thousand signatures and I am pleased to be sponsoring the Blackbutt group petition, which is now up on the parliament's website. I urge the community and other members to support this by signing the petition. The petitioners want the government to know that the potential new corridors will cut a swathe through private land, consuming vast tracts of ecological habitats and destroying those regional communities. While the community accepts the importance of these types of projects, it believes it is unfair to impose associated transmission infrastructure that will adversely impact their land.