

We would just like to make a comment re the discussions over drainage and soil management during the hearing. We are extremely concerned about the location of the cable and field drainage and irrigation pipes in the ground and the ability for the landowners and occupiers to access the systems and maintain and repair without interference with the cabling. In many other projects the cable has been buried below the field drainage systems, enabling the farmers to maintain the essential drainage systems. however, it was apparent from the hearing that the developers may seek to have the cable above the field drainage systems. if this is the case, we need to ensure that the landowners are not hindered from maintaining their systems and do not face additional management costs and hassle in trying to get consents to do works. our position remains that cables should be buried deeper than field drainage systems to avoid conflict and enable the farmers to be maintain their systems at will.

Secondly we are concerned that the soil management practices are not detailed at this stage. I would expect that a pre development schedule of condition is carried out that covers soil sampling of N, P, K, mg, Ph and soil organic matter and that the soils should be returned to the same indices or levels prior to construction. secondly, accurate top soil depths should be taken and the same depth reinstated at the end of the restoration. The soil management and protection is critical for the future of the land management and ensuring what is returned is the same as what is there at the start. to do that you need base level data and the above is the minimum i would expect.