

Empire Bay residents power up to fight electricity threat

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FOLLOWING revelations that a proposed Empire Bay electricity sub-station is unlawful, residents are holding a public meeting tomorrow (Thursday August 12) at 10am at the site on Empire Bay Drive, near the service station.

The bushland was zoned for conservation and protected by Land and Environment Court orders made in 2003 for bushland regeneration and preservation.

EnergyAustralia's planned high voltage electricity substation would breach the court order.

Independent candidates for Robertson, Michelle Meares and Jake Cassar, are supporting alarmed residents with concerns about the substation and proposed overhead high voltage power lines.

"We must make sure the public gets their voice heard and hopefully the community's wishes adhered to. It would seem they have not been considered here." Mr Cassar said.

"People who have lived here safely for years are now faced with possible health risks from the proposed overhead power lines which stretch for more than 3km from Empire Bay up to Avoca," Ms Meares said.

"EnergyAustralia want to increase ordinary power lines to high voltage 66,000 volt lines, but they are using safe-sounding words such as "modernise" the lines to allay fears.

"These are the same type of power lines that Wamberal residents fought two years ago. These 66,000 volt lines are documented to have health risks."

Children under the age of 15 who lived within 200m of high voltage power lines have close to twice the risk of developing leukemia, according to a UK study by Oxford Childhood Cancer Research Group.

The study was the biggest-ever publicly funded one in the UK using 33 years of data on 29,000 children including 9,700 with leukemia.

"Additionally health and fire risks of living near a sub-station are causing concern among people who have long lived in the area."

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<http://empirebaypress.tumblr.com/>

Childhood cancer in relation to distance from high voltage power lines in England and Wales:
a case-control study

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC558197/?tool=pmcentrez>