

**Electricity Distribution Reliability Standards,
Office of the Tasmanian Energy Regulator,
G.P.O. Box 770 ,
HOBART.
Tas. 7001**

Dear Sir,

I refer to your recent press advertisement seeking comment on the reliability of the provision of electricity to community areas.

We have a particular problem at Falmouth that has been ongoing now for several years, although presently, due to the absence of rainfall, the incidence has declined somewhat.

Just below the site of the "Glencoe" homestead is a large shallow lake normally populated by significant numbers of waterfowl, swans in particular.

High voltage, three-phase, high tension electricity lines run parallel to and along the entire length of this lake, and about 50 metres from it.

Regularly at nighttime, especially when the moon is full, swans attempting to alight on the lake hit the electricity wires, shorting them out and blowing the local fuses. Sometimes only one phase is affected with variable results.

This means an outage of at least 50 minutes depending on how soon and from where service crews come to attend to matters.

So-called 'bird-deflectors' have been fitted to the relevant wires but with little positive effect. When the lake is full and birdlife activity at a normal level, we can anticipate trouble almost at any time but especially at full moon . Summer time seems to be the worst. It can be very inconvenient.

I suggest the cost of calling out repair crews repeatedly, usually out of hours, to deal with these irritating outages, would be quickly recovered and eventually offset, by placing the particular section of transmission line underground, as has been done at Wrinklers Lagoon, where a similar circumstances pertains.

Yours faithfully,



Tim McManus.