



## **SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE FEASIBILITY OF UNDERGROUNDING THE TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS**

1. That a select committee be established to inquire into and report on the feasibility of undergrounding the transmission infrastructure for renewable energy projects, and in particular:
  - (a) the costs, benefits and risks of underground versus overhead transmission lines, particularly with regard to bushfire and other weather-related events, ongoing environmental impacts, and community mental health and welfare,
  - (b) existing case studies and current projects regarding similar undergrounding of transmission lines in both domestic and international contexts,
  - (c) any impact on delivery timeframes of undergrounding with broad community consensus versus overhead transmission with large scale opposition, and
  - (d) any other related matters.
2. That, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the standing orders, the committee consist of seven members comprising:
  - (a) three Government members,
  - (b) two Opposition members, one being Mr Fang, and
  - (c) two Crossbench members, being Ms Faehrmann and Mr Roberts.
3. That the Chair of the committee be Ms Faehrmann and the Deputy Chair be Mr Fang.
4. That, unless the committee decides otherwise:
  - (a) all inquiries are to be advertised via social media, stakeholder emails and a media release distributed to all media outlets in New South Wales,
  - (b) submissions to inquiries are to be published, subject to the Committee Clerk checking for confidentiality and adverse mention and, where those issues arise, bringing them to the attention of the committee for consideration,
  - (c) attachments to submissions are to remain confidential,
  - (d) the Chair's proposed witness list is to be circulated to provide members with an opportunity to amend the list, with the witness list agreed to by email, unless a member requests the Chair to convene a meeting to resolve any disagreement,

- (e) the sequence of questions to be asked at hearings alternate between Opposition, Crossbench and Government members, in that order, with equal time allocated to each,
  - (f) transcripts of evidence taken at public hearings are to be published,
  - (g) supplementary questions are to be lodged with the Committee Clerk within two business days following the receipt of the hearing transcript, with witnesses requested to return answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions within 21 calendar days of the date on which questions are forwarded to the witness,
  - (h) answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions are to be published, subject to the Committee Clerk checking for confidentiality and adverse mention and, where those issues arise, bringing them to the attention of the committee for consideration, and
  - (i) media statements on behalf of the committee are to be made only by the Chair.
5. That the committee report by 31 March 2024.

*[Resolved 13 September 2023, Minutes No 23, Item 27, pp 471-472]*