



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE INTO THE FEASIBILITY OF UNDERGROUNDING THE
TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

MEDIA RELEASE

SECOND HEARING IN INQUIRY INTO FEASIBILITY OF UNDERGROUNDING THE TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

9 February 2024

On Friday 16 February, the Select Committee on the feasibility of undergrounding the transmission infrastructure for renewable energy projects will hold its second hearing into the issue.

The committee will hear further from a number of organisations involved in renewable energy transmission projects, including the Australian Energy Regulator (AER), Ausgrid, Transgrid and Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo). Academics from the Monash Energy Institute will also attend, along with consultation groups including the Energy Networks Australia, Iberdrola Australia and DNV.

Ms Faehrmann, Chair of the Committee, said: 'This committee was established after the first inquiry into the issue by the State Development Committee missed the opportunity to ensure that stakeholder and community concerns were genuinely and heard and acted upon. Further, it failed to provide balanced recommendations to Transgrid, AER, AEMO and the Commonwealth Government including encouraging the agencies to give more consideration to the role that underground transmission lines can play in a rapidly expanding energy transmission network'.

The Chair stated: 'We need to be looking at ways in which we can encourage the rapid roll-out of renewable energy infrastructure, while also ensuring that any potential impacts on biodiversity and communities are minimised to the fullest extent possible'.

The Chair added: 'In line with further evidence received, this committee is examining the costs and benefits of undergrounding transmission lines. The nature of the first inquiry did not allow members adequate time to examine the detailed evidence put to it, particularly the conflicting evidence we heard regarding the costs associated with undergrounding electrical infrastructure technology'.

The Chair concluded: 'This inquiry gives more consideration on how to ensure transmission lines built today can withstand more frequent and extreme weather-related events, particularly floods and fires. This increased risk, in the face of climate change should be reason enough for the Government to be prioritising underground transmission lines where they can'.

The hearing will take place from 9.00 am to 4.15 pm in the Macquarie Room at NSW Parliament. The hearing will be livestreamed on the Parliament [website](#).



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Further information about the inquiry, including the terms of reference, is available on the committee's [website](#).

For further information please contact Committee Chair, Ms Cate Faehrmann, on (02) 9230 3771.

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