

**Submission  
No 16**

**INQUIRY INTO LEASING OF ELECTRICITY  
INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Name:** Ms Margery Whitehead

**Date received:** 13/05/2015

---

30th April 2015.

The Hon. Rev. Fred Nile MP.

Member of the Legislative Council, and  
Leader of the Christian Democratic Party. (CDP)  
NSW Parliament  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney.

Dear Sir,

RE: CDP leader is expected to establish an  
Upper House inquiry into ALL aspects  
of the sale of poles and wires proposed  
by the coalition. (Weekend SMH 11-12:4:15)

You hold a seat in the Upper House on the  
vote of many people who trust you because of  
the name of your party. This makes it incumbent  
upon you to ensure you fully understand the  
truth and reality of the consequences of all  
matters brought to the Upper House, and that  
you expose to other Upper House members the full  
effect of carrying out any piece of legislation  
especially if it heralds adverse effects on our  
state.

I understand that the Labor Party when in  
power sold off power stations in New South  
Wales to foreign countries. How (a percentage) of  
the poles and wires are to be "leased for 99 years"

This means that for all existing residents a significant proportion of the power supply for NSW is being sold off, perhaps to a foreign government. Even if to an Australian company now, it could be on-sold to a foreign country later.

Such a move places Australia in a vulnerable position in relation to that foreign power.

Should a disagreement arise that government could switch off the electricity which supplies a significant area of NSW. Those living in that area would have no communication systems working.

In the 1940's those working in telecommunication in Australia were classed as "essential services" and were not permitted to join the defence forces.

Communications are a vital service to the whole of the state's population, and, given the prominence of NSW as an Australian State, to the population of the whole country.

Such services should never pass into the control of foreign powers. They have their own ambitions and value systems.

Yours faithfully,  
Murray Whitehead