

**Supplementary
Submission
No 1a**

**INQUIRY INTO LEASING OF ELECTRICITY
INFRASTRUCTURE**

Name: Mr J F Brett

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Director, Upper House Committees
Parliament House, Macquarie St, Sydney NSW 2000

Copy to Ms Eleni Petronis MP for Miranda
Copy to Luke Foley MP
Copy to John Kaye MLC
Copy to Rev Nile MLC

Dear Sir

Leasing of Electricity Infrastructure (Inquiry)- Submission

This submission follows an item forwarded by Rev F Nile. I object to sale or lease of electricity transmission "poles and wires". Some reasons follow:

Technical

Electricity generation, storage, transmission and use are changing rapidly in progressive nations around the world.

Generation is transitioning from fossil fuel, eg coal, to renewable sources such as solar, wind, wave, tide, geothermal.

Electrical energy storage capacity is increasing with research, better batteries, capacitors, pumped storage.

Electricity transmission by "poles and wires" is improving with smart grids. However, "poles and wires" connections are progressively decreasing and are altering to suit new generator and load locations.

Safety and convenience can be improved with movement of traffic hazard poles. Cables can be located underground at substantial cost. Private lessors would avoid these costs.

All these developments need a centralised government unit for planning, design and operation. Please refer to previous NSW Electricity Commission.

Growth of highrise buildings points to need for more redundancy in electricity supply. Private lessor would operate at minimal cost with higher risk of outage to users.

The inquiry would benefit from advice by professional engineer organisations in addition to committee members.

Administration

The present system is fragmented. Generators are mixed, part city, part country, part private, part government. Transmission is mixed. The part lease/privitisation Premier Baird proposal will make this worse.

Comparison of relative "poles and wires" operating costs between different States is unrealistic. Even more unrealistic would be trying to compare costs 99 years on.

Part control of vital transmission would stifle improvements to the system. Introducing foreign ownership to a vital component would prejudice national security.

A variety of interests compete wastefully to retail electricity.

Experience with "privitisation" or sale/lease of public assets

All privitisation has damaged Australian, including NSW, public wealth and convenience. Look at Commonwealth Bank, Kingsford Smith airport. The waste list is extensive.

Check the details of the recent NSW Treasurer (now Premier) Baird 50 year lease of the unused Kurnell desalination plant.

This plant, is costing NSW more than \$500,000 a day to keep on standby, more if water is produced.

Sale of the plant last year to a private company for \$2.3 billion locked us into paying about \$10 billion in fees for the next 50 years, whether the plant is operating or not.

Summary

Our vital electricity system needs to be government owned and controlled for safety, efficiency and National Pride. All MPs should reject sale and/or lease.

Yours faithfully,

J F Brett

PS I do not object to publication of this submission.