

**Submission  
No 3**

**INQUIRY INTO FEASIBILITY OF UNDERGROUNDING  
THE TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE FOR  
RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS**

**Name:** Mr Kenneth Barber

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# Istana Park Pty. Ltd.

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**The Hon Emily Suvaal**  
Committee Chair,  
Underground Transmission Enquiry  
NSW Government.

Dear Emily

**The FEASIBILITY of UNDERGROUNDING the TRANSMISSION  
INFRASTRUCTURE for RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS**

I am delighted to see that there is a review by the NSW Government into the above subject.

As you will see from my brief resume attached to this submission, I have been working in the Electrical Industry for more than 60 years. During my career I have been involved in the supply of bare conductors for overhead lines and in the supply and construction of a large number of underground transmission cable projects throughout Australia and the region.

I attend numerous overseas conferences to ensure that I keep up to date with the latest technology and trends. At these conferences I am embarrassed to admit to colleagues in Europe, that our Transmission authorities in some states in Australia, are still considering construction of overhead lines. Those European engineers say why do the Australian public still accept the construction of overhead lines with their impact on the environment? I get many appeals from landowners who are devastated to learn that their properties will be immediately devalued, and their mortgages threatened, by the construction of such lines, on or nearby their properties.

It is true that direct costs of undergrounding solutions are currently still higher than the overhead solution. However, I find difficult to accept that transmission companies are employing consultants with limited practical experience, who provide inaccurate, escalated costs of undergrounding options, simply to justify the preference for the overhead line. Whilst overhead lines are cheaper to build, they are ignoring the fact that these lines will cost much more to maintain in the future and the hazards they provide, particularly with the effects of climate change.

As a resident and rate payer in NSW I would very much like to support this enquiry. I would be happy to make a presentation to your committee on the current costs and construction times for long-distance underground transmission in NSW.

Yours faithfully,

Kenneth Barber  
Director