

**Submission
No 8**

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

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I believe the Transgrid Line from Snowy 2.0 to Taralga should be underground. The main points are:-

1) Bushfires - We have had various fires over the years. The main advantage in putting them out was quick and easy access. This will not be possible if the fire is near the overhead lines. The risk of fire is also increased by the power and energy being above the ground.

2) Continuity of power - There will be a better service and reliability if the lines are underground. The service will last longer and there will be no environmental issues after their use by date. In the event of a major bush fire that destroys the powerline what will happen to the Sydney demand for electricity?? Undergrounding of power supplies is becoming more accepted overseas. If Transgrid can see some advantages in putting some of the line underground, then why not all of it?

3) Cost - Does the overhead costs include a provision for replacing loss of property, the environment (both animals and vegetation) and the substantial effect on the livelihoods the farmers and graziers under the powerlines? The effect on fertility of livestock and the problem with aerial spraying and control of crops.

There are many other minor factors including the amenity, lack of production under the lines, biodiversity issues, bird and animal destruction, trees plant and flora destruction.

If the people in Sydney want renewable and reliable energy, they should pay a premium to get power to their backyard. Why should the rural community wear the infrastructure and cost?