

Submission
No 10

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Hon Emily Suvaal MLC Australian Labor Party Chair Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC Australian Labor Party Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC The Greens Hon Wes Fang MLC* The Nationals Hon Emma Hurst MLC Animal Justice Party Hon Stephen Lawrence MLC Australian Labor Party Hon Taylor Martin MLC Liberal Party Hon Peter Primrose MLC, NSW State Parliament

Subject: Concerns and Request for Consideration on Undergrounding Transmission Infrastructure for Renewable Energy Projects

Dear honourable members,

I hope this letter finds you in good health. As a concerned landowner directly affected by the transmission infrastructure for renewable energy projects in New South Wales, I am writing to bring to your attention the challenges and anxieties faced by individuals like myself in relation to overhead transmission lines and to advocate for the feasibility of undergrounding such infrastructure.

Firstly, while I recognise the NSW State Governments commitment to reducing emissions through the development of renewable energy, the location and management of these projects is already having a direct negative impact on landholder well-being, property values and insurance costs. This is a separate concern, but it is important to consider when the development of large overhead transmission lines is also being considered as part of this commitment to developing alternative energy sources. However, it is essential that we address the concerns of those whose properties are impacted by the construction and presence of overhead transmission lines.

Living in close proximity to overhead transmission lines poses several challenges and can have a significant impact on the well-being and quality of life of affected landowners. These challenges include:

1. Visual Intrusion: The sight of towering steel structures and power lines passing through our properties is visually intrusive, detracting from the natural beauty and tranquillity of the surroundings. This intrusion can negatively impact the aesthetic value of our properties and diminish our enjoyment of our homes.
2. Property Values: The presence of overhead transmission lines can have a detrimental effect on property values. Prospective buyers may be deterred from purchasing properties near or under these lines, leading to potential

financial losses for landowners who wish to sell their properties or refinance them.

3. **Health and Safety Concerns:** Although scientific studies on the health effects of living near transmission lines are inconclusive, there is a considerable concern among landowners regarding potential health risks associated with prolonged exposure to electromagnetic fields. This uncertainty can lead to increased stress and anxiety for individuals residing in close proximity to overhead transmission lines.
4. **Environmental Impact:** Overhead transmission lines often require the clearing of vegetation and trees, which can result in habitat fragmentation and loss of biodiversity. The visual impact and disruption to local ecosystems caused by clearing for overhead lines are matters of great concern for landowners who value environmental conservation. Additionally, with the increased pressure of climate change, it is predicted that large overhead lines will pose a greater risk of fires in an increasing dry, hot climate.

Considering these challenges, I strongly believe that exploring the feasibility of undergrounding transmission infrastructure for renewable energy projects is not only necessary but also a responsible course of action. Underground transmission lines offer several benefits that address the concerns raised by landowners:

1. **Visual Amelioration:** Undergrounding transmission infrastructure would eliminate the visual blight caused by overhead lines, preserving the natural beauty of our landscapes and maintaining the integrity of our properties.
2. **Property Values:** Underground transmission infrastructure is less likely to have a negative impact on property values. By removing the visual intrusion and associated concerns, landowners can have greater confidence in the long-term value of their properties.
3. **Health and Well-being:** Underground lines would reduce potential health concerns related to electromagnetic fields, alleviating the stress and anxiety experienced by landowners and ensuring a safer living environment.
4. **Environmental Conservation:** By avoiding the need for vegetation clearance, undergrounding transmission lines helps protect ecosystems, preserve biodiversity, and maintain the ecological balance of our region.

I humbly request your support in advocating for the feasibility of undergrounding transmission infrastructure for renewable energy projects. I urge you to consider the voices of concerned landowners and initiate further research, dialogue, and policy development on this matter. It is crucial that our concerns are heard and that every effort is made to find solutions that address the challenges faced by those directly affected by overhead transmission lines.

By championing the cause of undergrounding transmission infrastructure, we can create a win-win situation that balances the need for renewable energy development with the concerns of affected landowners. This approach demonstrates a commitment to responsible and sustainable energy infrastructure that respects the rights and well-being of all stakeholders involved.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I sincerely hope that you will take our concerns into consideration and advocate for the feasibility of undergrounding

transmission infrastructure for renewable energy projects in New South Wales. Your support in this endeavour will be greatly appreciated and will contribute to a more harmonious and inclusive energy future for our region.

Yours sincerely,