

**Submission  
No 74**

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

**Name:** Mr Scott Churchill

**Date Received:** 12 July 2023

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The Hon Emily Suvaal, Committee Chair,  
Inquiry- Feasibility of undergrounding the transmission infrastructure for renewable energy projects  
Standing Committee on State Development  
Parliament House  
6 Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000  
12<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Dear The Hon Emily Suvaal MLC,

**Re: Feasibility of undergrounding the transmission infrastructure for renewable energy projects**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to this important inquiry into the feasibility of undergrounding transmission infrastructure for renewable energy projects.

We are a farming family and are one of the many property owners that will be impacted by Transgrid's Humelink high voltage transmission network.

This inquiry represents an opportunity to address the benefits of underground cabling and the environmental impacts on prime farmland:

- Undergrounding will result in a significantly smaller easement without overhead lines
- Reduced removal of trees and plant flora which reduces the impact on biodiversity
- Undergrounding eliminates the risk of overhead lines causing bushfire
- Eliminates air and ground fire control hazards
- No visual impact from overhead lines on the rural landscape
- No overhead lines impeding agricultural operations such as machinery use, drones, aircraft use for weed management
- Land above the underground cable infrastructure can be rejuvenated after construction
- Less impact to the landscape after construction is complete

I urge the Standing Committee to recommend that undergrounding is the best way forward for renewable energy transmission in NSW. The cost of undergrounding is more than offset by the environmental benefits and outcomes for our future generations.

Yours sincerely,  
Scott and Justine Churchill