

Submission
No 83

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 13 July 2023

Partially
Confidential

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

Date: 11 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 infrastructure projects.

Please do us the courtesy of reading fully and viewing Before and After pictures below. 🤔

As a young farming family we purchased what was to be our dream property in 2020, located in the beautiful Southern Tablelands between Goulburn and Crookwell. The property is very unique to the area as it boasts 6km of water frontage to the Pejar Dam. Our property is zoned C3 (environmental/aesthetic protection) limiting what structures etc can be built upon our land...unless it is 85m tall steel transmission towers.

is 1170 acres of open countryside with elevated vistas of Pejar Dam and has a large amount of aesthetic capital. It was our plan to build our dream home encasing all that has to offer. That plan has been shattered with the news of Transgrid proposing to build

approx. 5 x 85m tall steel transmission towers across the skyline of our property (see photomontages).

Transgrid has an existing 330kva transmission line crossing the corner of our property of which we host ONE (1) 35m tall tower. However a lack of foresight and planning has meant the new Humelink 500kva line has to deviate more than 900m from parallel line due to Crookwell 2 wind farm having since been constructed. We host NO wind turbines on our farm but are now expected to host 4 or 5 x 85m transmission towers so they can navigate Humelink 500kva a safe distance from wind towers. There is a generous easement between wind turbines where an underground version of Humelink 500kva could be constructed, revegetated and forever be forgotten.

- The inequity in expecting rural communities/landowners to bear the burden for the state is immense.
- Transgrid and valuers Knight Frank are “low balling” vulnerable landowners.
- Any increase in costs of undergrounding will be made up in time with community acceptance (social license), environmental aesthetics, increased productivity of agricultural land (powerlines limit many operations)
- Bushfire risk, both cause and prevention of retardation by firefighters.
- If undergrounded we (and perhaps many others) would forgo the SBPS payments.
- Pejar Dam is a beautiful locality, visited by many. Its appeal deserves to be protected.

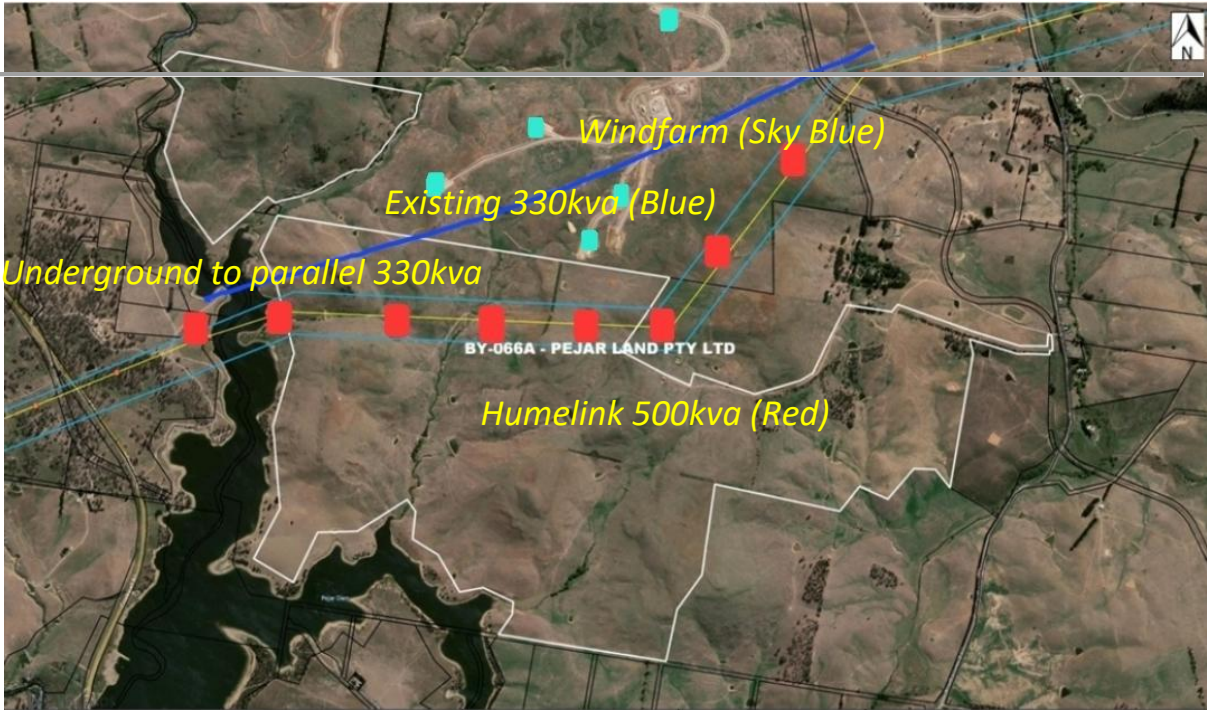
It is our strong belief that this project needs to be placed underground for the sake of all communities in regional NSW. There is too much to be lost if the “easy/cheap” option is taken. The landscape will soon heal from construction/trenching and be free of the lasting impacts of above ground transmission lines.

I urge the Standing Committee to recommend that undergrounding is the best way forward for renewable energy transmission in NSW. As we transition to net zero emissions we need environmentally responsible transmission as well as generation.

Yours sincerely,







HumeLink 		<p>Property of TransGrid. No warranty is given that the information shown is complete or accurate. The location of property boundaries shown are approximate only.</p>	Do Not Scale Produced from TSS - GSA		Property Holdings Holding Number BY-066A	
Indicative Structure Location Indicative Centreline V2-5			Plot Creation: 14/11/2022	Created by: P88068	2022-077 Prefix	1 Sheet No.