

Submission
No 86

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

Organisation: Riverina Highlands Landcare Network

Date Received: 13 July 2023



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.

We are writing to you as the Executive of the Riverina Highlands Landcare Network in regards to the Hume Link energy project. We are a Landcare network that covers the former Tumut and Gundagai shires. Our region includes a large component of the area impacted by the Hume Link including Adjungbilly, Bombowlee, Brungle, Yaven Creek, Lower Bago and Gilmore.

The proposed corridor for the Hume Link energy project runs over many sites that are in the Riverina Highlands Landcare Network, which in conjunction with many government organisations and landowners, have invested thousands of dollars and thousands of hours of labour. Many of these project sites contain critically endangered and threatened species of fauna and flora such as the Booroolong Frog, Macquarie Perch, Coolac-Tumut Serpentine Shrubby Woodland, Box Gum Grassy Woodlands as well as a variety of rare woodland bird species that rely on these endangered ecological communities.

The Riverina Highlands Landcare Network has written to Transgrid and strongly urged them to look at all the options available to it before deciding on the transmission lines that it is using. We are very concerned about the impact this project will have on these sites as well as the impact this is having on our members. Many of our members undertake projects with Landcare because of a need to preserve their land and a passion for revegetation. A project such as the Hume Link will jeopardise their ability to maintain current sites as well as plan for future ones.

We request that underground transmission lines is fully and accurately considered as an option that is better for the landscape, fauna and flora and the community.
Kind regards,

Jess Campbell
Chairperson for Riverina Highlands Landcare Network

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