

Submission  
No 91

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
**Date Received:** 13 July 2023

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Partially  
Confidential

13 July 2023

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

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.

I strongly support undergrounding transmission infrastructure for renewable energy projects, as it is a far less damaging option than the currently proposed HumeLink towers, which will severely impact the health of our local communities, the environment, and the economy.

Although I'm not directly impacted, I have family and friends living in the beautiful, picturesque and unique **Gilmore Valley**.

It's proposed my family will have at least **10 powerlines** passing through their property. This infrastructure will have a significant impact on their livestock operation and livelihood.

Impacted Snowy Valley's residents received letters approximately 3-years ago, straight after the devastating 2019-2020 bushfires, informing that HumeLink was proceeding, and they have been **in communication** with Transgrid and the Governments ever since, in trying to have them understand the impacts this is having on the whole community. The Black Summer Bushfires **cost the Snowy Valleys** significantly by

destroying 45% of the Local Government area. Included in this devastation were 749 **impacted** landholders, 193 homes **destroyed**, 9,000 head of livestock **lost** and 42,000 hectares of **burnt** pine forest as well as 10,000 km of **ruined** fencing.

I know the prospect of these massive overhead powerlines has heightened the level of **anxiety and mental health issues** in our community and people are deeply affected by the lack of communication regarding the effect the above grounding will have on their properties, homes, and the history of the area.

I am angered by the proposed **environmental destruction** and other environmental health impacts that will occur in the area as result of the removal of hundreds of significant trees and other flora if above grounding proceeds.

**Undergrounding** would result in at an estimated 15m **easement** in comparison to a 70m easement with overhead lines, much reduced removal of trees and plant flora as well as fewer endangered species being killed.

Undergrounding would eliminate fire and security hazards as well as the risk of interruption to power.

Underground energy transmission is best practice around the world and Australian scientific studies support this.

The significant social, economic and environmental issues will be overcome by taking the transmission lines underground.

I urge the Committee to strongly recommend the case for undergrounding HumeLink not only in the Snowy Valleys but across all affected rural and regional areas for the benefit of generations to come.

Yours sincerely