

**Submission  
No 97**

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

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As a Yass Valley Council representative on the Humelink Consultative Committee I would like to support the undergrounding of the transmission powerlines. My reasons are as follow;

- \* Bushfire risk - after the Black Summer fires and its dreadful effect on the Community and the environment we must do everything possible to reduce the possibility of such an event happening again. It will become even more difficult with the increasing impact of Climate change!

- \*Possible impact on transport flows - The suggested route of the overhead powerlines cross the Hume highway on 2 occasions in the Yass Valley alone. A powerlines down across such a major north/south road would have a major impact on supply issues.

- \*Transgrid under regulatory pressure to deliver on time and cost has opted for the solution they are most familiar with, overhead powerlines. I asked the question about their experience with undergrounding and the response was a 20 kilometre line in Sydney!

- \*Powerlines are the outdated technology of the past. For this massive multi generational renewable energy project we need to be looking to the future! We need Environmentally friendly and responsible transmission as well. We need to take into account the environmental and social cost to the community and particularly the agricultural sector when weighing up the cost of moving to undergrounding.

- \*Hemelink is possibly the first of a series of major projects linking renewable energy with major population centres. It should be the precedent that other schemes should follow rather than the minimum benchmark that Overhead wires would allow.

- \*Germany has 2 power lines that are underground; Suedlink 750k and Suedost 500k and California are looking to go underground to minimise bushfire risk. So it can be done and it should be done here as well.