

**Supplementary  
Submission  
No 212a**

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

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These overhead high voltage powerlines that the government seem confident are the best solution for our renewable energy transition, appear very similar to our naive approach to DDT and ASBESTOS, both commonly used products around the last time high voltage overhead powerlines were installed. A lot has changed in that 40 year period and the risks we were once happy to take are no longer considered reasonable or legal for that matter. These lines present a very real hazard to ground crews fighting fires, as the carbon in the air acts as a conductor and can allow the powerlines to arc out, most likely killing anyone underneath. That being said, once ground crews are in a large fire fighting situation we believe most properties in the vicinity of the easement will be left undefendable, given we would have to pull all crews out at the last firm reference point, eg, road, due to poor visibility which is usually between 2 and 20 meters on larger fires. This could be 1 to 2 km of lost firefighting opportunity in our area and far more in other areas.

Who takes responsibility for the fact fires will end up much larger and take more property and lives, due to the lost opportunity to control them in the lead up to the lines, under the lines, and for a significant distance after the lines?

It would appear as though this issue hasn't been taken into consideration properly, when considering overhead lines as opposed to undergrounding.