

Submission
No 120

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

There are many costs associated with overhead transmission lines in addition to financial costs arising from construction. Extensive environmental damage is common with clearing and building the vast structures. For example, the Central West Orana (CWO) REZ is planning to clear thousands of hectares of Critically Endangered Box Gum woodland for transmission lines to connect renewable projects. There is also extensive loss of scenic and visual amenity among the natural and rural landscapes. In addition, much farmland can be heavily affected and operations disabled due to the hugely invasive transmission structures. This also leads to heavy devaluation of some farms, with the associated compensation far short of meeting these losses.

There should be no more overhead transmission infrastructure built until this inquiry can carefully consider all underground options, and take into account all costs of overhead transmission lines to make balanced and equitable decisions.