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

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I am a retired farmer and now live in Goulburn .

I am very concerned about Transgrid's plans to build The Humelink transmission lines above ground.

And it wouldn't be just the one line. There will be at least the one and possibly two more lines, which is not common knowledge to complete the work to connect Snowy2 to Sydney. A massive blight on the landscape.This fact alone is enough to rethink HumeLink .

But it won't only be a blight on the landscape, it will have a profoundly detrimental affect on farming operations, on the mental health of affected farmers and communities. Where is the social licence to build such a forest of 80 metre towers and powerlines.

Overhead powerlines have a long history both in Australia and overseas of starting major bushfires with a huge loss of life.

They will cause huge environmental damage and have a massive impact on wildlife not to mention tourism.

Overhead powerlines are yesterday's technology. Many countries throughout the world are undergrounding new transmission lines because they understand how damaging overhead transmission lines are, together with the fact that there are considerable cost and power savings in placing transmission lines underground.

Cost has always been used as an argument against undergrounding but recent studies indicate that it would cost barely double. A cost that Energy Minister Bowen says is prepared to accept. This fact needs to be thoroughly investigated by an independent authority.

Community and farmer opposition would evaporate and work could start immediately if HumeLink was undergrounded because they are not opposed to the idea of transmission lines going through their properties to supply electricity to Sydney, they just don't think that they should have to put up with all of the horrendous impacts of overhead powerlines.

Yours faithfully

Anthony and Suzanne Morrison