

Submission
No 182

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 14 July 2023

Partially
Confidential

Submission to Inquiry into the Feasibility of Undergrounding the Transmission Infrastructure for Renewable Energy Projects

OPENING STATEMENT

We wish to forward our thanks to the Parliament of New South Wales for convening this vital inquiry into the feasibility of undergrounding the transmission infrastructure for renewable energy projects.

Also, thanks to the Chair, Ms Suvaal, and Members of this Committee for committing their time and energies to this question.

The question of what to do with new transmission lines goes far beyond being a “critical infrastructure project”. It is a project with profound implications for the interaction between humans, animals, plants and land for at least the next two centuries. It will set boundaries and precedents, checks and balances between the power centres of corporations, governments, planners and people. This question is deserving of the most sober, rational, dispassionate and wide-visioned consideration from this Committee.

Our submission to the Committee consists of two parts: firstly, a brief account of the impact of HumeLink on us personally and secondly, the environmental impacts of underground and overhead, based on the Specialist Study Areas of the HumeLink Environmental Impact Statement.

Personal impacts

Our story thus far

My wife and I purchased 300-hectare property on the out skirts of town, it has been a life time dream ours to live as close to the native bush as possible, it has taken 25 years of searching to find such a place, we have built our first and last new home on this property and have put our heart and soul into our retirement home, we have also gone off grid, and store our own water in an attempt lessen our burden on today’s infrastructure, we value our privacy and those around us , so to receive news from our neighbour that TransGrid representatives on a site visit pointed out the proposed Northen route power lines which would traverse directly over our home, we were gutted at this news, TransGrid had made no attempt to contact us or even knew we were there only that the neighbour informed them of our existence. With this news we made it our business to find out more and to our horror the rumour was real, we contacted TransGrid and made them aware of our existence, after some discussions they showed us the new route which would run the full length of our property albeit not directly over our home but still impacting us.

TransGrid have been negligent in their approach to us and even to the point of their compensation offer still not recognising our existence on this property.

They have not recognised the full impact these lines will have on our safety, wellbeing, privacy, health, stress increased risks involved around bush fires, lightning strikes the list goes on. and the pressures on how to manage our property going forward with these structures.

This section of our land which they wish to acquire for an easement is heavily timbered and houses a lot of native flora and fauna. we believe it would have lesser impact on nature and future generations if it went underground.

Thank you again for your consideration of our submission.