

Submission
No 144

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 14 July 2023

Partially
Confidential

The Hon Emily Suvaal, Committee Chair,
Inquiry - Feasibility of undergrounding the transmission infrastructure for renewable energy projects
Standing Committee on State Development
Parliament House
6 Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
14 July 2023

Dear The Hon Emily Suvaal MLC,

Re: Feasibility of undergrounding the transmission infrastructure for renewable energy projects

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to this important inquiry into the feasibility of undergrounding transmission infrastructure for renewable infrastructure projects.

The reason for my submission and that I believe it is the only way to proceed is due to the costs and benefits of undergrounding.

Internationally, governments are choosing undergrounding based on analysis of all costs, including environmental and social costs and conclude that undergrounding transmission is the cheapest long-term solution.

Undergrounding is also chosen due to its benefits including:

- o no risk of underground cables causing a fire;
- o no restriction or hazard on safe firefighting;
- o protection of the infrastructure from severe weather and fire events;
- o will not impede agricultural operations;
- o no impact on the landscape and amenity; and
- o significantly reduced impact on biodiversity as a much smaller easement is required

Our governments are telling us that renewable energy, like solar and wind, will reduce the cost of electricity. Given this, it's critical that a better environmental option for transmitting electricity, like undergrounding, isn't rejected on the basis of cost.

The benefits to the environment and communities of undergrounding will last for generations.

I urge the Standing Committee to recommend that undergrounding is the best way forward for renewable energy transmission in NSW. As we transition to net zero emissions we need environmentally responsible transmission as well as generation.

Yours sincerely,