

Submission
No 125

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

Name: Mr James Morgan

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The impact of the proposed Humelink Transmission Line above ground will have a severe impact on our farming operation on our property at . There are two power lines already crossing our paddocks and now to have a third huge power line above ground crossing the same paddocks will come at a huge cost to us and the environment . the height restrictions imposed by Transgrid on operating machinery greater than 4.3mtres in height in the vicinity of the transmission lines will render certain farming activities illegal. Crops wont be able to be grown under the power lines. Loaded hay trucks wont be able to pass under the lines. GPS devices in machinery will be greatly affected. I have already experienced the equipment malfunctioning with the two existing lines and now to add a third will add further disruption to this equipment.I currently fly a aircraft in and out of the property whilst carrying out our farming operations and this will now have to cease due to safety concerns of the seventy five metre transmission towers and wires across my flight path.

These lines need to go underground as the cost to agriculture and peoples lives and the environment are just too high if they are left to traverse good agricultural land above ground. By undergrounding the lines takes away any risk to agricultural machinery coming into contact with the lines and also completely eliminates any risks to flying activities.

The initial cost of undergrounding may be higher but the long term cost could be considerably less as the upkeep and maintenance of above ground power lines is very high as can be seen in the costings of the upgrade required for Line 24 Vales Point.This line was built in 1969 and due to corrosion of structural steel components was in urgent need of repair as stated in a Transgrid document presented in 2021.

The document even referred to various safety issues that the ageing structure could cause such as bush fires as well as safety to Transgrid workers and the general public. By undergrounding Hume Link transmission lines from the outset would eliminate these problems occurring into the future. An extra dollar spent now could certainly save many more dollars required in the future.