

Submission  
No 131

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
**Date Received:** 13 July 2023

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Partially  
Confidential

For the consideration of the Committee.

I'm writing to urge the committee to consider the undergrounding of transmission lines for future projects.

I am a resident of the Ellerslie/Yaven Creek area, through which the current planned aerial transmission lines are planned.

We were severely affected by the Dunns Road Bushfire in the summer of 2019/20: we lost our home, our infrastructure (sheds, yards, fencing), 98% of the land area was burnt, and a % of our livestock as well.

I know the fire was not started by powerlines, but from lightning in private forestry plantations; however, I also know for a fact that the existing transmission lines that run through the Yaven Creek Valley prevented adequate control of the fire in the first 48hrs, and most likely contributed to the fire breaking containment lines and subsequently burning all the way to Kosciusko. I know this, because I was there when it happened.

To me, placing transmission lines underground makes much more sense than having major aerial structures - the structures being proposed are monstrous compared to the current lines that are barely noticeable on the sky line. I know that undergrounding has its issues, but don't understand how the cost of such structures can be cheaper than burying cable in the ground.

I urge the committee to consider all the 'against' arguments put forward by farmers whose land and livelihoods the aerial transmission lines will effect. Put yourselves in their shoes - would you want to live under it? would you want to work under/beside it? Would you want to live in the same valley, wake up to the same aesthetic eyesore every day or your life? If you answer no to any of these, then please, please consider placing transmission lines underground for all proposed and future projects.