

Submission
No 160

**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 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 very important inquiry into undergrounding transmission infrastructure for renewable infrastructure projects.

As written below these are the main concerns that I have and the reasons for wanting HumeLink as an overhead line to be changed to an infrastructure that would ensure the much safer option of undergrounding the HumeLink infrastructure instead.

I am writing to affirm that I do not under any circumstances want to see these massive overhead powerlines go ahead above ground as not only would it be an absolute eyesore for those who would have to live within close proximity or even within the general area of them for that matter, but also I am most concerned by the potential for these overhead powerlines to start fires, especially when weather is hot or dry and when it is windy as well...

This has actually happened before on numerous occasions where all it has taken is a tiny spark from an overhead powerline to cause absolute devastation, untold heartache and the irreplaceable loss of property, livestock and the lives of loved ones as well...(Also those towers do tend to attract lightning which in turn has the potential to start ground fires as well)And I for one just don't want to have to see or go through that sort of terror ever again.

You also need to realize that you are dealing with rural areas that don't have many services available to them, and once these fires start they are difficult to bring under control in such remote areas as the residents who live and work the land there only have their own resources to rely upon in order to try and put any potential fires out...)So I am very much in agreeance to moving such infrastructure underground, and by doing so would this not be a much safer option for all involved??? As I can't see very many farmers or people in general who would want to till the soil of their properties to any sort of depth that would compromise any potential underground infrastructure that would or could be put into place.

Also, I am very concerned about the potential risks to our health and safety as well...Not only for residents who have to live in the area, but for the livestock that they have on their land as well...

I absolutely shudder to think at how much radiation people or animals alike would be exposed to on a daily basis if these overhead powerlines were to be put into place, and I know for a fact that people's health and the health of their animals cannot be guaranteed to be safe nor could these overhead powerlines even be considered by any means as safe, as that would be an absolute lie to even say so...

So again I re-iterate with the point that it would be so much safer to move this sort of infrastructure underground which is a far safer place for it to be as far I'm concerned.

We have the technology at our fingertips now to achieve such advancements, and given that it is 2023 that we are now living in, isn't it about time that we looked for a much safer solution as opposed to sticking with traditional methods of infrastructure such as overhead powerlines??? (We have the chance now to go to a more innovative and safer underground option...So why don't we do so???)And in saying that should we not be moving with the times as well???

Again, I would like to empathise that I am conveying these very valid concerns of mine to you and with the greatest of respect, so I would hope that in return you would take the time to respect the fact that as a very concerned resident would you please genuinely take the time to read what I have written in it's entirety so that you can try to fully take into consideration what it is that I am saying in regards to all of these concerns that not only I have, but that many of the residents whom are actually still living in the area have as well...

I would strongly 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.