

**Submission
No 154**

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

Name: Jon Price

Date Received: 14 July 2023

Jon Price

**The Honourable Emily Suvaal
Committee Chair
Inquiry Feasibility of Undergrounding Transmission Infrastructure for Renewable Projects
Standing Committee on State Development
Parliament House
6 MacQuarie Street
Sydney, NSW 2000**

12th July 2023

Dear the Honourable Emily Suvaal BN MLC,

RE: Feasibility of undergrounding the transmission infrastructure for renewable energy projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission in relation to this critical inquiry regarding the feasibility of undergrounding transmission infrastructure for renewable infrastructure energy projects.

The proposed Transgrid Humelink North infrastructure line will directly impact my extended family, their farming enterprise and generally many farming regions including other rural farming families and communities along the proposed connecting transmission lines in rural NSW.

Undergrounding the transmission infrastructure will eliminate the following...

- Fire risks to rural communities, families throughout NSW.
- Direct, permanent and ongoing health risks associated with electromagnetic fields to rural farming families.
- Ongoing anxiety to rural farming families hosting grotesque towers and structures impacting their farming businesses viability, decreased land value and daily activities.
- Ongoing threat of biodiversity weed management with utilities transgress onto their pastoral lands to maintain alternative, outdated, overhead structures.

Undergrounding immense public infrastructures to supply energy will ensure the following...

- Grazing access over all pastoral lands to maximise food productivity and operations, features not permitted under alternative, over head structural amenities.
- Preferred landscape visual aspects maintained for aesthetic, tourism and mental wellbeing purposes.
- Maintaining the unique, rural Australian aesthetics for all public enjoyment.
- Continuous supply of energies without the risk of storm, fire, flood and wind threat to topple and damage over head structures.
- Futuristic and current proposals will meet state of the art technologies and not continue with outdated, risk laden systems. Other countries have adopted undergrounding of power supplies as preferred practice.
- Perseverance of endangered habitats for endangered bird, animal and plant species.

At least consider if the utility is to transgress across private, flat farmland that undergrounding is vital and optimal practice. Where public land is utilised overhead transmission lines could be considered if terrain is treacherous and not feasible.

Providing the much needed supply is not in question. It is the most efficient, risk mitigation option that is paramount. Not at a huge safety and economic cost to a few for the benefit of public provision.

Underground the transmission and benefits are for all associated with the responsible and sensible power supply.

Yours sincerely,
Jon Price