

**Submission
No 231**

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

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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

Dear The Hon Emily Suvaal MLC,

I write to you today regarding the proposed Overhead lines for Humelink.

Apart from the utterly appalling visual effect on the landscape, I, as a landowner, private pilot and concerned citizen in the district, fear that the overly tall towers will be a danger for a number of reasons.

My father in law had his property burnt out nearly thirty years ago from a bushfire that was found to be caused by overhead transmission lines. He was also successful in having the owners of the transmission lines bear the cost of his significant losses.

This would be a risk today with the proposed overhead towers.

In today's aerial fire fighting methods, the heights of the proposed lines would present a very real danger to aircraft including helicopters in their efforts to extinguish bushfires.

The heights of the proposed lines would also present quite a hazard for crop dusting aircraft and any other types of low flying machines and I include Hang Gliders, gliders and paragliders.

The proposed towers would also be susceptible to extreme weather events such as the events that brought down the towers in South Australia.

I would have thought that in today's world, we would be much better off having all new transmission lines underground and I understand that in Europe and other countries, they are moving to put all their transmission lines underground.

It would be safer on a number of levels including no risk of damage from bushfires and extreme weather.

Underground lines would have no visual impact on the countryside, no impact on birds, no impact on low flying aircraft and would also have less footprint or easement size.

No doubt the cost of underground cabling may be greater at the outset, but overall the benefits would far outweigh the cost difference.

Please do not allow a blight on the landscape that 80 metre high overhead power lines would be.

Yours sincerely

Vivian Weatherall
'Wollogorang'