

Submission
No 258

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

Name: Jarrah Bousfield

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As an Indigenous person, local to and living in Tumut I feel that no one has taken into consideration the Sacred and Spiritual importance of this area to Indigenous Culture and the detrimental effects that overhead towers will have not just on farmland, to fire risk and other threats to our environment but to our Sacred, Spiritual Landscapes, Songlines and cultural history. It will be heartbreakingly hard to teach my kids and grandkids Dreamtime Stories and visually show them the story of our Sacred Landscape when those Songlines will have 76m high transmission lines across them.

I already know of one deeply Sacred site that has recently had infrastructure placed atop a "hill" that to most people is just a "hill" but to my people, the Indigenous of this area, it is much more than a hill. It overlooks a Sacred Women's Business site. The "hill" forms part of a dreamtime story. To My People, that hill, is a Songline. It depicts a woman, laying down. The aforementioned infrastructure was placed not atop a "hill" - it was placed atop her breast!! What was once a Songline, a dreamtime story, the ancient history of my ancestors - has now been completely desecrated. Violated.

This valley will never be the same if this continues any further!

I believe I speak for most of my local Indigenous community when I say that that underground transmission lines are the only way to move forward. Not only will underground transmission be more suitable for our environment and local landholders but it will also show strong respect for the local Indigenous community. With underground lines there will be no more Sacred Indigenous landscapes visually defiled or besmirched.

Also, I feel that it is of vital importance to mention that I strongly believe there should be an extension for the closing date for submissions regarding this very important matter. Not enough community members have been made aware of that fact that submissions were being taken. I know, I for one, have only just found out about this two hours before the closing time. I have a lot more say on this matter and I strongly believe that there are also many more members of the community that also would like to submit their thoughts and opinions.