

Submission
No 263

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

Name: Juliet Lockhart

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Juliet Lockhart

9 July 2023

The Hon Emily Suvaal MLC, Committee Chair
Standing Committee on State Development
Parliament House,
6 Macquarie Street,
SYDNEY 2000

Dear The Hon Emily Suvaal MLC,

Re: Feasibility of undergrounding the transmission infrastructure for renewable energy projects

I am extremely anxious to support this Submission regarding the proposed Humelink electricity lines. In this enlightened era of positive action to undertake initiatives to improve our climate, our environment and our quality of life, undergrounding transmission infrastructure for this project must surely be seriously considered.

Politically, it would reflect well on the NSW Government and particularly Transrid by honouring all the ideals mentioned above, to be quoted along with similar projects already undertaken by private companies elsewhere in Australia, together with international projects.

My young farming family lives in the country, and the risk of fire is so constant. Knowing overhead wires have caused endless bushfires, the results of which cause lifelong trauma for citizens losing loved ones, neighbours, Fire Fighters, animals and land use, and with all contributing huge costs for the State government, has got to be a major consideration.

I am also aware of the hindrance overhead wires are to planes, drones, helicopters, in country areas in times of urgency, such as a medical emergency, in floods, and in general agricultural work for arial mustering, dropping feed in outlying paddocks, and the many other uses of aerial activity.

As I understand it, although the actual costs of undergrounding the transmission infrastructure would be more than overhead wires, in the long run the costs would be more than justified, for all the above reasons, and would immediately enable land use to be unimpeded once the cables are laid.

There can be no doubt it would be a much better environmental option. There is also well documented evidence that overhead transmission wires are detrimental to the mental health of those who live near them, and the communities' distress at the number of birds killed by flying into them.

PLEASE consider the wider picture on what you have the authority to sign off on, as you take into account the lives of SO many of the citizens of NSW who would benefit from infrastructure going underground – and the political capital such a decision would generate.

Yours sincerely

Juliet E S Lockhart