

Submission  
No 279

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

**Name:** Cr Julia Ham

**Date Received:** 14 July 2023

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Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the inquiry into the possibility of putting the Humelink powerlines underground.

As a Councillor with Snowy Valleys Council I have been attending the Humelink Community Consultative Committee Group for the past three years. I have witnessed the distress and the concerns of the landholders during this time. Our area was badly impacted by fires, along with Covid , our community has suffered and is vulnerable.

Powerlines underground have been done in Wagga at the SAP. It can be done in the Snowy Valleys Council and Wagga City council area. The bushfires have shown how vulnerable our area is to bushfires. To put more overhead lines in the district shows a lack of visionary planning and leaves the possibility of electricity being interrupted when natural disasters occur.

The land around SVC and Wagga is highly productive agricultural land. This needs to be considered. Overhead powerlines will have a negative impact on grazing and agricultural operations. Agricultural production is the biggest economic earner in the Snowy Valleys Council area.

The visual impact of large powerlines through attractive countryside will have an impact on the district, The area is building a successful tourist industry. To have large Powerlines overhead will distract from the natural beauty of the area. Underground lines will assure the countryside is left unscarred.

The cost of the underground lines may be more expensive however the benefits to our community agriculturally, tourist wise and emotionally would demonstrate a government who listens and can find a positive solution to the necessary transmission lines while protecting the community.

Governments need to look to the most efficient way to transmit power with modern technology to last for the future and will give electricity consumers guaranteed power. The cost for uninterrupted and reliable power may be more underground, but the assurance of transmission of electricity is vital.