

Submission
No 197

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

Name: Miss Heli Alkumaa

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David Casey and
Heli Alkumaa

The Hon Emily Suvaal, MLC, Committee Chair
STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE DEVELOPMENT
Parliament House
6 Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Suvaal,

INQUIRY – Feasibility of undergrounding the transmission infrastructure for renewable energy projects

We have an 1100 acre grazing property with 220 breeders and a small Angus Stud of 40 registered cows on Ellerslie Road, Ellerslie.

Our concerns with the Humelink overhead transmission lines project are -

- Increased traffic on our roads which are already in an appalling condition after the recent fires and floods. Our home is only metres off Ellerslie Road which is a dirt road and if this should become a main route for trucks we would be inundated with dust. Our daughter suffers from bad hay fever, pollen allergies, and anxiety and this would have a huge effect on her health.
- Future fire risks. We were the first property under attack from the Dunns Road Fire in 2019/20. Several fires over the years have started within kilometres of the spot where that fire started. Prior to the pine plantation coming to the district, they've been generally easily extinguished. As the powerlines will impede the use of aerial control, and with more storms and more severe storms predicted with El Nino events and climate change we, as well as all of our neighbours, will be placed in an impossible situation to run our businesses, especially if increased premiums make insurance prohibitive as they already have for many in flood prone areas.
- We are concerned that increased traffic and noise in the construction phase will have detrimental effects on cattle fertility, ability of cattle to produce live calves and rear them to weaning, again having a negative impact on our business, and our neighbours' businesses.
- Another major concern is the pollution of dams and waterways due to traffic and construction. Farming is difficult enough, especially for us small operators, who are not in a position to pass on any extra costs.
- Something we have learned only recently is that it will not end here – that these powerlines will be duplicated sometime in the future, bringing further disruption to the area. At the very least we deserve to be told the truth in order to make decisions that will have an impact

on our lives.

- Last but not least - how will we be compensated for the loss in value to our properties and our businesses?

We recognise and support the importance of renewable, clean energy and the need for infrastructure to support its transmission, however, we need your help to negotiate better short- and long-term options for local businesses, communities, the environment, and future generations.

It is my understanding that whilst expensive, underground electricity transmission is best practice around the world. We urge you to support undergrounding HumeLink so that country people and businesses who produce the food that not too far in the future is going to be more and more important not only to Australia but the entire planet, are not casualties as we transition to a low carbon energy future.

Regards

David Casey and Heli Alkumaa