

Submission
No 16

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 5 November 2023

Partially
Confidential

04 November 2023

The Director,
Select Committee on the Feasibility of Undergrounding
Infrastructure for Renewable Energy Projects,
Parliament House,
Macquarie Street,
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Director,

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

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to this critical inquiry. I write this submission to support undergrounding transmission infrastructure.

After reviewing Transgrid's Humelink EIS, I ask you, to consider what my future will look like.

- **MY INHERITANCE**, I am 21 years old, 5th generation growing up on the family property, Cowridge. I bear the burden living with Eight Towers, 3.1 km through property for the rest of my life. Dominating 500kv transmission lines, four tiers of cables. Overhead transmission lines are not environmentally friendly.
- **UNDERGROUND TRANSMISSION LINES should be mandatory for our country's health and future.** I value my inheritance and responsibilities of protecting and enhancing the environment. **RETURNING ENDANGERED SPECIES NOT CREATING MORE ENGANGERED SPECIES.**
- **SUBSTANTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGES**, permanent loss of biodiversity, ecology, and habitat destruction. The 70m easement cuts in half **110ha private conservation land**, which consists of an existing wildlife corridor, steep rocky escarpments, Grassy Box Woodland, Derringullen waterway and revegetation projects . **HIGH VISUAL IMPACT SURROUNDING THE DERRINGULLEN FALLS, a landmark in the Yass Region.**
- **THE EIS ECOLOGY SURVEY WAS NOT COMPREHENSIVE, IT DOES NOT PROVIDE AN ACCURATE 'BIGGER PICTURE' of the Derringullen Creek and conservation corridor connectivity to the Yass River and (Bowning Creek on neighbouring property) The EIS states low to medium value, the waterfall is not mentioned.**
- **HIGH VISUAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT**
Undermining progressive and funded environmental projects protecting waterways. Nearly 30 % of Cowridge is conservation land, tree lines and, fenced off waterways. Funded projects and years of support from Rivers of Carbon-ARRC, Landcare, Greening Australia.
Significant biodiversity and environmental impact of three waterways in close proximity: Derringullen Creek and Bowning Creek, 500-600m from the Yass River.
- **Impact on the birdlife habitat, Raptor Birdlife: Wedge-tailed Eagles nesting pair and tree, and Little Eagles on three closely located waterways face death by electrocution. Raptor birdlife will never return. Impact to superb parrot, scarlet robin, and potential legless lizards' habitat, and wildlife corridors. Not listed in the EIS.**



Derringullen Falls in Flood

- **The Ngunnawal culturally sensitive ‘Women’s’ area on the Derringullen Creek** has **NOT** been ‘appropriately avoided’ as Transgrid has stated. Moving the line 80- 100m does not mitigate the impact. Transgrid has **NOT HONOURED** the **VISUAL, CULTURAL AMBIENCE AND RESPECT** this area deserves. **Surveyed European heritage** on the property is reported as insignificant and has false information. A very disappointing outcome, other areas have not been surveyed. Small Quince tree orchard and house site, over 100 years old.
- **Undermines** **Succession plan. Eco-tourism and future development**, business strategies, and family invested enterprises to diversify income opportunity incorporating **eco-tourism**. The **Derringullen Eco-lodge and walking tracks** (within conservation land on the Derringullen Creek) in development since purchase of adjoining property in 2018. Humelink has taken the prime location for our development deeming our **eco-tourism opportunities null and void**. **HIGH Visual and social impacts**, walking tracks, waterfall views and ambience of running water and the sounds of nature under dominating towers, a huge span of four tiers of crackling, arching, swinging cables.
- **HIGH-BUSH FIRE RISK INCREASED** on our difficult steep terrain, **NO aerial water-bombing support, NO GROUND CREWS, RFS** or Land vehicles cannot safely access land.
- **VISUAL impact ‘Bettalong’, residential house, purchased in 2018. 2km driveway parallel with Humelink.**
- **AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMNT PRACTICES IMPACTED**, our property proudly produces fine wool and meat. Transgrid satellite map indicates **crossing over an existing 99M 132kv transmission line**, a tower location and bend in the line presents MAJOR complication with livestock yards and SEMI-TRUCK LOADING and TURNING AREA. On edge of escarpment and steep slope. A most impractical area to imagine the 75m high tower and line which is why we have asked for a safer, less impact solution. **OUR ALTERNATIVE RE-ALIGNMENT PROVIDES SAFE, ACCESSIBLE FLAT OPEN LAND. (SEE MAPS ATTACHED)**
- **HELICOPTER PAD VOID, weed control application**. Weed management in steep terrain is only accessible by Helicopter. A Large cement water tank, services helicopter pad and spray equipment and supplies 28 stock water troughs. Water pipes trenched throughout property. Potential construction damages.

- **70m easement tree lines cleared. Tree lines: over three hundred trees, 30+ years old cleared, protected lambing paddocks and corridors of green connectivity to waterways. Including Euc. Aggregata. EIS marked additional tree lines and paddock trees cleared outside the 70m easement for construction is unacceptable.**
- **Large number of (highly valued) paddock trees, mature and ancient hollow bearing trees removed.**
- **FAILURE TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE RE-ALIGNMENT TO REDUCE HIGH IMPACT THROUGH OUT THE PROPERTY. Three years of correspondence- to avoid all the above-mentioned. Three years of receiving false and generic information. Seeing my mum and Grandmother suffer three years (so far, years to come) of stress and frustration dealing with Transgrid has 'knock-on effects and concerns impacting my brother and me.**

Correspondence with Transgrid, our family has asked for a relatively small re-alignment within the original wider corridor to the northern most side, which would effectively avoid conservation and waterfall area, offering accessible, practical alternative line benefits narrow waterway crossing, narrow Black Range Road span, and safe access crossing 132kv, 99M line. LOW OVERALL IMPACT. Less Trees cleared overall and would be the most suitable underground option.

This line also protects the Bowning Creek and Washpan Creek vegetation and habitat.

Yours Sincerely



Wedge-tailed Eagles Nest – Wallaby at base of tree (right) Located above the Waterfall. Severely impacted wildlife corridor, waterways, and revegetation projects. This area is avoidable, small re-alignment provides practical solution

SEE ATTACHED REFERENCE: MAPS: EIS_2. MAPS.DRAWN.sixmap_20230924