

Submission
No 20

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

Organisation: Goulburn Mulwaree Council

Date Received: 7 November 2023



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The Director, Select Committee on the Feasibility of Undergrounding Infrastructure for Renewable Energy Projects
undergrounding.infrastructure@parliament.nsw.gov.au

**Subject: Goulburn Mulwaree Council submission – October 2023
Inquiry into the feasibility of undergrounding the transmission infrastructure for renewable energy projects**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the feasibility of underground of transmission infrastructure for renewable energy projects.

Goulburn Mulwaree Council covers an area of 3,223 square kilometres located in proximity to Canberra, Sydney and Wollongong, that all have large energy markets. This has encouraged alternate power generators to investigate establishing new sustainable energy projects in our Local Government Area. This includes current applications for solar installations as well as the proposed Veolia Energy from Waste facility that is currently under assessment for Tarago. Council continues to receive interest from other energy providers looking to establish in our region.

As the development of alternate power supplies continue, particularly solar farms, additional transmission infrastructure will be required into the future for the transfer of this additional power into the major cities and the preference is for this infrastructure to be underground. Undergrounding this infrastructure reduces the impacts on visual amenity and the potential biodiversity impacts from the clearing of larger corridors to accommodate this infrastructure. While undergrounding of transmission lines comes at a cost, this should be costed into the project to minimise impacts on our community. Undergrounding this infrastructure also minimises the fire risk to our community.

While the current proposed Hume Link project is not in the Goulburn Mulwaree Council local government area, we are an affected landholder as Pejar Dam is located on the proposed route. Pejar Dam, located approximately 30km from Goulburn, is one of two water supplies dams for Goulburn residents. Whilst we would prefer undergrounding of transmission infrastructure, our preference is that the infrastructure, at this location, be over the dam adjacent to the existing infrastructure. This is to minimise any impacts to the dam, which is a critical component of the water security for Goulburn city residents.

Council acknowledges that the undergrounding of transmission infrastructure may not always be possible, however in areas of no engineering or environmental constraints, we would prefer that transmission infrastructure to placed underground.

Yours sincerely

Aaron Johansson
Chief Executive Officer