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

Organisation: Upper Lachlan Landcare

Date Received: 9 November 2023

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

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to this important inquiry into the feasibility of undergrounding transmission infrastructure for renewable infrastructure projects.

Upper Lachlan Landcare is the regional Landcare body representing smaller Landcare groups and all Landcare efforts in our region, broadly defined as the boundary of Upper Lachlan Local Government Area.

The Upper Lachlan region is a native species rich and diverse area. Over decades our members have protected and enhanced native habitat areas with fencing, planting and conservative grazing management.

We are concerned by the impact of the transmission infrastructure for the Hume Link renewable energy project.

Destruction of valuable trees and ecosystems will have long lasting and irreversible impacts on local biodiversity and connectivity. Upper Lachlan Landcare Inc. is concerned these negative impacts cannot be balanced by a re-investment in revegetation. Minimising the initial destruction by using underground cabling is the important and logical first resolution.

HumeLink Alliance Inc. are advocating that overhead lines be instead replaced with underground cabling to reduce the landscape impacts. Upper Lachlan Landcare Inc. would strongly support and encourage any development adjustment that would reduce the negative impacts on native flora, fauna and ecosystems.

We urge the Standing Committee to recommend the Hume Link renewable energy transmission project be modified to reduce the negative impacts on our landscape.

Regards,

Support   Connect   Engage   Enable

John Anderson
Chair - Upper Lachlan Landcare Inc.