

Submission
No 29

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

Organisation: Energy Users' Association of Australia

Date Received: 10 November 2023

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

10 NOVEMBER 2023

The Energy Users' Association of Australia (EUAA) is the peak body representing Australian commercial and industrial energy users. Our membership covers a broad cross section of the Australian economy including significant retail, manufacturing, building materials and food processing industries. Combined our members employ over 1 million Australians, pay billions in energy bills every year and in many cases are exposed to the fluctuations and challenges of international trade.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission under the NSW Parliament's Inquiry into the feasibility of undergrounding the transmission infrastructure for renewable energy projects.

The EUAA is completely understanding of regional community's frustration, the part they play in the NEM's renewable transition and the impact that transmission infrastructure can have on their lives.

The EUAA has been encouraging the transmission network service providers throughout Australia to improve their consultation with regional communities to address the concerns that they may have. Unfortunately, the TNSP consultations to date have been less than best practice, although EUAA is encouraged to see improvements in this area, including the development of the "[Better Practice Social Licence Guideline](#)".

The EUAA is concerned about the NSW Parliament investigating undergrounding for a second time. Undergrounding significantly increases the cost on consumer bills, which flows through the whole economies value chains to goods and services and ultimately the cost of living for householders. If undergrounding proceeds, householders will be paying the increased cost for undergrounding through their electricity bills, and through the increased price of everyday items produced in NSW.

Further, while the issue of undergrounding remains open, gaining social licence is made more difficult as communities await the outcome of these inquiries. The EUAA is already concerned at the massive increases in cost of building HumeLink and other ISP projects throughout the NEM. Undergrounding will only increase the cost of the renewable transition.

Do not hesitate to be in contact should you have any questions.

Andrew Richards
Chief Executive Officer