

Submission
No 40

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

Organisation: GMR Energy
Date Received: 10 November 2023

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The Hon Cate Faehrmann MLC
Chair, Select Committee on the Feasibility of Undergrounding the Transmission Infrastructure for
Renewable Energy Projects
Legislative Council
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Faehrmann,

**RE: INQUIRY ON THE FEASIBILITY OF UNDERGROUNDING THE TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE
FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS**

GMR Energy appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the inquiry into the feasibility of undergrounding transmission infrastructure for renewable energy projects.

As a company that is deeply committed to the energy transition, GMR Energy encourages the timely and efficient delivery of transmission infrastructure to meet the growing renewable energy needs of New South Wales. Importantly, we support a collaborative approach that involves transmission planners, network service providers, and the hosts of new infrastructure, such that landholders and the community derive tangible benefits.

INTRODUCTION TO GMR ENERGY

GMR Energy is a leading independent developer of energy storage assets in Australia. Our storage projects will play a crucial role in the State's energy transition, providing integral firming infrastructure as traditional generation technologies are retired.

GMR Energy is a portfolio company of Gaw Capital Partners, an international private equity and asset manager with over US\$36 billion under management employing more than 500 staff in 11 offices around the world. GMR combines global institutional capital, development and project management expertise to be uniquely positioned to deliver large-scale energy storage solutions.

THE NEED FOR ACCELERATED TRANSMISSION SOLUTIONS

The demand for renewable energy in NSW is rapidly increasing. For NSW to harness the full potential of renewable resources and accelerate the expansion of the industry, it is pivotal the development of transmission infrastructure can facilitate the pipeline of renewable energy projects. Unfortunately, delays in transmission infrastructure deployment can result slowing the growth of the renewable industry, which boasts substantial opportunities for new jobs and regional development.

REALISING BENEFITS FOR COMMUNITIES

At GMR Energy, we aim to create social and economic value from our projects. We endeavour to engage and listen to all stakeholders, ensuring their interests are prioritised at all stages of the process. We consistently seek to deliver positive environmental impacts and to bring collaborative opportunities to the communities within which we develop.

In our pursuit of community benefits, GMR Energy supports implementing initiatives such as community investment funds, local job creation, skills development and education programs. These

initiatives could be equally valuable for new transmission infrastructure to ensure hosting communities are not only accommodating the transmission infrastructure but also share the economic benefits.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important discussion and to highlight the importance of ensuring host landholders and affected communities benefit from new transmission infrastructure, to enable a quicker roll out of crucial transmission projects to unlock further renewable generation.

GMR Energy would welcome the possibility of providing further information in a detailed briefing and to share our vision for new transmission in New South Wales. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me at _____ or _____

Kind regards,

Qiao Han

Chief Commercial Officer and Head of Development