

**Submission  
No 41**

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

**Organisation:** Stride Renewables  
**Date Received:** 13 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, 2000  
NSW

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13 November 2023

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

**Dear Ms Faehrmann,**

Stride Renewables (Stride) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the inquiry on the feasibility of undergrounding the transmission infrastructure for renewable energy projects.

Stride understands the importance of efficiently and successfully delivering transmission infrastructure to service new renewable generation and drive the energy transition in New South Wales. We also support the inquiry's pursuit to deliver fair outcomes for host communities who will be impacted by the required build.

**ABOUT STRIDE RENEWABLES**

Stride is a boutique advisory firm with deep experience in renewable energy from both the public and private sectors. The business' expertise stretches across policy, development, stakeholder engagement, finance and social licence.

We are strong advocates of robust engagement and benefit-sharing models for building trust and social licence in host communities. This approach won Blind Creek Solar Farm national recognition at the Clean Energy Summit Awards in 2022.

**THE NEED FOR ACCELERATED TRANSMISSION SOLUTIONS**

NSW electricity generation from renewables is growing rapidly. However, the pipeline for projects is outpacing their deployment and lack of transmission capacity is a key barrier. By 2030, the Integrated System Plan calls for an



additional 4.6GW of new wind and large-scale solar generation capacity; this is matched by over 30GW of wind and solar projects in planning in NSW.

Having the appropriate transmission infrastructure in place is crucial to unlocking this investment and maximising the benefits in energy security, carbon abatement and employment of the energy transition. Our state's clean energy transition cannot afford any further delays in transmission buildouts.

Stride appreciates the in-depth analysis regarding the feasibility of undergrounding to minimise social impact. However, given the predicted significant increase in costs and delays, we need to progress construction of major network infrastructure projects like HumeLink with benefits shared with those most impacted.

## **REALISING BENEFITS FOR COMMUNITIES**

Stride advocates for projects to meaningfully engage, and fairly share the economic value, with host communities especially those most directly affected including both host landholders and neighbours. This approach smooths the development process and has been instrumental in ensuring timely and successful projects. Shared benefits approaches used for renewable energy projects could similarly play a valuable role for hosting communities of new transmission infrastructure and should be considered to enable a quicker roll out of crucial transmission projects. Stride appreciates your consideration of the above and would welcome the opportunity of a detailed briefing with you to share further details and our vision for new transmission in New South Wales. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me at [redacted] or by email at [redacted].

Your Sincerely

**Amy Kean**  
Director