

Submission  
No 49

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
**Date Received:** 10 November 2023

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Partially  
Confidential

09 November 2023

The Director,  
Select Committee on the Feasibility of Undergrounding  
Infrastructure for Renewable Energy Projects,  
Parliament House,  
Macquarie Street,  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Director,

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

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to this critical inquiry. I write this submission to support undergrounding transmission infrastructure.

After reviewing Transgrid's Humelink EIS, I wish point out major problems and flaws Transgrid have falsely and unjustifiably claims:

- **Our re-alignment, a small adjustment in the original wider corridor is the obvious, practical line for UNDERGROUND transmission lines.**
- **UNDERGROUND OFFERS LONG TERM BENEFITS FOR THE FUTURE GENERATIONS TO INHERIT ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECOLOGY RESPONSIBILITES.**
- **Transgrid have mislead and falsely claimed excessive cost for undergrounding. I understand from the reports presented the costs are less than twice overhead transmission lines.**
- **I dispute Transgrid's line and refuse property entry until our justified, practical, ground truthing, biodiversity and conservation land is fully protected with a small re-alignment within the original wider corridor.**
- **HIGH VISUAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT CANNOT BE UNDERESTIMATED.** The EIS dismisses these impacts without ground truthing and denied qualified consultation requests.
- **Environmental destruction and visual impact, three years correspondence has achieved nothing but stonewalling, false and generic statements. The landmark Derringgullen falls, waterway and private conservation land must be protected and can be avoided. The EIS ecology survey reports are NOT comprehensive, the ecological 'picture' is not truthfully depicted. The Derringgullen falls, not mentioned although it is in the surveyed corridor.**
- **Over Two years requesting critical information, structural, construction how it is proposed to access the 500kv, eight towers over the 3.1km, and where the towers will be placed.** This information has only since come to pass in the EIS, (we hold no trust in the Transgrid or the

EIS document) we have discovered more vegetation clearing, and some, not all road assumptions additional to the 70m easement. This clearly demonstrates the infuriating **impracticalities of satellite mapping. There has been no ground truthing.** And no critical information issued to us prior the EIS.

- The 500kv overhead transmission line has a **HIGH IMPACT on our Agriculture management**, our property relies on **helicopter aerial weed control**. The overhead transmission line will **NULL AND VOID** critical operations.
- Likewise, our property is a HIGH lightning strike area, our steep terrain on the Yass River and Derringgullen Creek is dependent on **Bushfire Aerial water bombing. NULL AND VOID**. Unsafe and inaccessible terrain for RFS ground crew.
- **Animal husbandry, Livestock yards**, high volume of livestock movements, animal husbandry practices, lambing paddocks, and **semi-truck load zone HIGH IMPACT**.
- Position of tower and bend in the transmission line, also **crossing the 132kv, 99M line** at the livestock yards have not been ground site assessed. Alternative route provides many benefits. (listed below)
- **HIGH Impact on Succession plan**. Subdivision blocks and diversifying enterprises impacted. Commenced works (2018) on ECO-lodge and Derringgullen Creek Walking tracks, featuring the unique and hidden gem the Derringgullen Falls. Fully impacted with overhead transmission line destroying the whole concept and natural beauty and ambience of a significant waterway.



*Lower viewing point- Walking track and conservation land- out of view, left, Wedge-tailed Eagles Nest – Top left grassy box woodland - Alternative route following the horizon land contour*

## **IN CONCLUSION - UNDERGROUND BENEFITS OUTWEIGH 500KV OVERHEAD TRANSMISSION LINES.**

We have provided Transgrid photos and maps with justified ground truthing and a practical alternative route indicating advantages for Transgrid construction and maintenance.

Our route is within the original wider corridor.

### **Provides the most accessible and practical UNDERGROUND ROUTE.**

These four critical construction advantages are:

- **Crossing the Black Range Road at the narrowest point, not the widest.**
- **Crossing over the 132kv 99M line - in OPEN (clear of vegetation) SAFE, LEVEL ground.**  
Avoids transmission tower and bend in the line, on an escarpment next to livestock yards, high volume of livestock movements and animal husbandry practices. HIGH impact semi-truck loading zone. Removal of 300 trees, planted protection for lambing paddocks.  
  
NB) The 132kv line is to be doubled in capacity or duplicated for Coppabella wind turbines.
- **Crossing the Derringullen Creek at the narrowest point, not the widest.** Transgrid have contradicted themselves, the EIS criteria states *crossing waterways at the narrowest point with the least impact*. The current Transgrid line crosses at the widest, steepest terrain, cutting the 110ha of conservation land in half. The wildlife corridor and particularly the Wedge-tailed Eagles nest and Little Eagle will not survive the impact of this massive transmission line.
- **Crossing the Bowning Creek (neighbours' property) at least ecological impact point.** The transmission line will clear 40 -50 hollow trees. A devastating habitat loss.

Transgrid's threatening tactics cannot be overlooked. Total distrust from correspondence and verbal information which was false and generic statements. Forced pressure of compensation negotiation agreement before any relevant, structural, and factual documents provided. Inflicting high stress, anxiety, and medical conditions.

Compensation is a one-off taxable payment and does not account for the landholders' annual financial loss of maintenance, ecological and environmental loss and damages and natural disaster implications.

**Transgrid's ONE-OFF COST CONSTRUCTION COST bears the ethical responsibilities Australia needs to be proud of and deliver a project our children and grandchildren will inherit whilst maintaining a sustainable protected environment.**

**Proven technology, efficiency, carbon footprint, low maintenance, and long term benefits all points to underground infrastructure.** Alternatively, connection with the existing infrastructure - Snowy 1.

Threatening compulsory acquisition over private landholders carry the weight and permanent burden of irreversible damage, negative impact.

The hypocrisy and contradiction of environmental, ecological, and biodiversity damage to funded projects we have proudly accomplished over generations

- Rivers of Carbon (ARRC), Greening Australia and Land Care (Yass area Network) Projects:
- Landmark Derringullen Waterfall
- Ngunnawal Women's Area Transgrid have not satisfactorily avoided the HIGH VISUAL and SOCIAL IMPACT the transmission line will inflict. This is very disrespectful.
- Tree line corridors connecting to waterways
- Ancient invaluable paddock shade Yellow Box, Blakelyi Red Gum and Apple box cleared
- Threaten birdlife, and habitat Little Eagle, Superb Parrot, Scarlet Robin occasional Gang Gang Cockatoo, and the protected nesting Wedge-tailed eagle.
- Yass River 5km fenced corridor, 45ha.
- Derringullen Falls to the Yass River. Rivers of Carbon (ARRC) project 1.5km, 110ha conservation land. One thousand trees planted 2023.
- 30% of our property is conservation land.
- The conservation land around the Derringullen Falls and waterway – pre-2018, developing walking tracks and picnic area. A private eco-tourism enterprise - Eco-lodge planned.

Please act on our repeated calls for a practical, ecologically less impacted re-alignment to the northernmost side of the original corridor and support UNDERGROUND TRANSMISSION LINES.

Yours sincerely,



**YELLOW LINE** approximation Transgrid widest span over Derringullen waterway, cutting 110ha conservation land and wildlife corridor in half. Destroying Eco-tourism walking tracks and eco-lodge.  
**RED LINE** alternative route accessible UNDERGROUND behind grassy box woodland on cleared land. Narrow accessible waterway crossing up stream Derringullen Falls and Ngunnawal culturally sensitive area. Overall, less vegetation loss and ecological impact avoids conservation land.