

**Submission  
No 62**

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

**Name:** Mr Roger McLennan

**Date Received:** 10 November 2023

---

Robyn & Roger McLennan

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

*10<sup>th</sup> November 2023*

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 reiterate my support for undergrounding transmission infrastructure and I refer the committee to my initial submission to this inquiry.

As previously detailed in our first submission My family has owned a property at 5521 Batlow Road Windowie for 55 years but also have been a **landowner in the Gilmore valley for over 140 years**. I, Robyn McLennan (Howe) am the 5<sup>th</sup> generation of the Howe family to operate the farming business. My husband Roger and I took over running the business in 2011 after my father will tragically killed in a farming accident on the above property.

After reviewing Transgrid's Humelink EIS and with having a meeting with Transgrid employees at our property on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023 it has been verified that we are classified as 1<sup>st</sup> neighbours to the proposed overhead line (we not eligible for any compensation). It is indicated that the nearest tower is located approximately 600 mtrs from our residence, in addition we will visually see approximately 14 km of towers and lines. There only recommendation was to ask the engineers that the towers be painted green and the lines be loosely tensioned to reduce the humming noise. Not a great result when you can see between 20 and 30 towers.

We therefore feel that undergrounding is the only option to reduce the visual and noise impact to everyone located on the Hume Link line. An independent report has been handed to the government detailing that the undergrounding cost will only be 1 ½ times the cost not the 3-10 times as quoted by Transgrid. How can the Amplitude report not be strongly

considered. These towers will be seen for many generations so lets do right now and go underground.

With the increase in climate temperatures another main concern is how we are going to fight a bushfire with all these power lines. The 2023 bushfire season has started already with large fires in northern NSW, WA and QLD. Its only a matter of time before we see bushfires within the Gilmore Valley again. With overhead power lines there will be no way to contain any bushfires both by air or ground. How can the NSW government not see and appreciate this??

In order to minimise the above impacts, I urge the Standing Committee to recommend undergrounding the HumeLink project.

Yours sincerely,

Robyn and Roger McLennan