

**Submission  
No 77**

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

**Name:** Bill Kingwill  
**Date Received:** 10 November 2023

---

Humelink Action Group

Bill Kingwill ,Chairman

The Select Committee on the Feasibility of Undergrounding Infrastructure for Renewable Energy Projects, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000  
9-11-23

Dear Select Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to this inquiry .We refer the committee to our submission to the previous parliamentary inquiry,We write this submission for the support for underground transmission infrastructure,in particular the undergrounding of the Humelink project.

Since the parliamentary inquiry there has been a number of developments with the Humelink project that raise questions about the assessment and consultation process of the project as an overhead transmission line .

1.The release of the Ampitude Consultants Review of the Transgrid /GHD Humelink underground report and the Stop Rethink Humelink mini report , 2,The public exhibition of the Humelink EIS , 3,A request to the Australian Energy Regulator to reapply the RIT-T ,regulatory investment test for transmission to the Humelink project .

The release of the Ampitude Consultants Review of Humelink Undergrounding report and costing of HVDC Alternatives shows that Undergrounding Humelink is a viable and feasible option and Transgrids GHD report is a sham and not correct .(see Ampitude Review attachment #1).

The Humelink EIS has had major objections raised that have not been addressed yet , regarding biodiversity offsets and a dispute that was over the project description 3c to 2c that was amended on the 18-12-21 with the AER due to the objection by Winnell pl .

The objection by Humelink Action Group is that all environmental studies that were carried out from consents to enter signed by land holders up to the date of 18-12-21 were invalid because the project was 3c option not 2c as is the new project that had a new Transgrid team from the project director ,project manager,land access officers.

We have had no response as yet from the AER on reapplying the RIT-Tto the Humelink project .

The costs of Undergrounding benefits from an assessment that includes a consideration of triple bottom line effect on community and environment and economic shows that , environment impact is minimised by 4-6 times underground easement is 15 meters wide overhead easement is 70 meters wide Humelink easement 360 kms is 2520 ha overhead line .

Humelink easement 360kms is 540 ha underground line.

Bushfire risks are addressed in Bushfire Report (attachment #2).

Bushfire risks with underground line are NO RISK to environment or community.

Network security and reliability of Undergrounding is unchallenged as against overhead from severe weather events and bushfire events.

On going environmental impacts of overhead are the visual amenity of a 80 meter tower every 350 meters with 24 conductors (wires) going down the Gilmore valley on the western side of Tumut as will be visible from the town Gilmore Valley will be turned into UGLY VALLEY ! .

An ongoing impact is noise of the overhead line that will affect 65 dwellings in certain weather conditions that will exceed NSW EPA noise limits for the life of the overhead line 80 years.(Noise Policy for Industry EPA 2017).

Biosecurity is a major concern of land holders and has not been addressed by Transgrid and employees have stated that "it doesn't matter what the agreement with the land holder in the

biosecurity farm plan is when it comes to construction of the transmission line they are going to do what ever is necessary to build the line as quickly as possible”.

Many farm biosecurity plans have got that all new high voltage power lines that are to be constructed on the farm land are to be underground ,overhead powerlines are a biosecurity risk to the farm and will be fought through the NSW Biosecurity act 2017.

All of the above points ,objections would not be issues if Humelink was to be built UNDERGROUND the members of Humelink Action Group over 700 and community members have stated .

Mental Health

The whole process is having a huge impact on the mental health of affected land holders some have contacted me about the tactics engaged by Transgrid employees to try to get the option agreement signed or they will resume their land compulsory acquire it .

We have land holders and family members that are suffering major metal health problems brought on by the Humelink power line that are getting treatment and I have told Transgrids employees to stay away from those land holders and not to contact them or legal action will be taken against them .

We have called for all actions to progress Humelink as overhead to be stopped while the Select Committee is in progress ,all landholders have stopped negotiations on land access and option agreements until 31-3-24 .To stop dealing with Transgrid employees for mental health wellbeing.

Electromagnetic Radiation

Has not been addressed by Transgrid the community ,CCG and Humelink Action Group have asked repeatedly what is the EMR of a 500kv double circuit power line at full load and we can never get an answer from Transgrid ,or is there an Australian safety standard ?

There is German and Belgium regulations,the German one is that a380kv line has to be 400 meters from an inhabited building .The Belgium regulation is on the amount of EMR out from the line and give reference to the incidence on childhood leukaemia.(attachment #3 ,#4) Delivery of Project As it has been stated at the earlier inquiry ,IF the Humelink project is underground Transgrid can start tomorrow ,the community feeling is such ,the Ampitude Review has stated that Humelink underground line could be completed and operational by August 2029 .

Where as the Humelink overhead line with large scale opposition will be held up in the courts for years as the landholders fight compulsory acquisition and refuse the consent to enter their land an deny access which is the only right that the landholders have under the Electricity Supply Act 1995 NO94 .Paragraph 55 Notice of entry (3)(a).

We ask the Select Committee to consider the underground option of major high voltage power lines.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Kingwill

Humelink Action Group .

I would like to give evidence at the hearing .