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Michael

I note with keen interest the **IPART Review of the Costs, Benefits and Funding for Undergrounding Electricity Cables**, as indicated by Bob Carr late last year.

I have the following submission to make:

1. It is important that the undergrounding of overhead cabling include 132kV high voltage power lines due to the acknowledged radiation reduction that will occur. It is common knowledge that power lines cause radiation (the higher the voltage, the higher the radiation). There are pockets of community belief that radiation from high voltage overhead power lines is linked to cancer for residents in close proximity. Whether this is proven in future or not, there is full expert agreement from both "sides" that by undergrounding these high voltage powerlines, a significant reduction (of the order of 95% reduction) in associated radiation levels occurs. A government that knowingly allows this to continue will potentially open themselves to future liability if any such link to cancer is proven in the future.
2. Given point 1 above, it is therefore imperative that high voltage lines in built-up residential areas receive priority of undergrounding over low voltage lines given the risk and visual impact. Suburbs in Sydney's north west are criss-crossed with unsightly high voltage overhead lines, whereas low voltage lines tend to be underground in many areas.
3. Electricity disruptions occur regularly – typically as frequently as weekly in the north western suburbs of Sydney. This no doubt has to do with the level of over head cables between the consumer and the supplier.
4. In relation to existing easements, in particular for 132kV high voltage overhead lines, a recommendation of undergrounding high voltage lines needs to be clearly stated, whether via existing easements or via other routes such as parallel under roads. In particular, a statement on any potential changes to existing conditions of such easements is required.

Please feel free to place my submission on public record.

Can you please acknowledge receipt of my email, either by return email to rob.downing@pil.com.au, or to my postal address as listed above.

Regards

Rob Downing