



# Have your say!

## Evaluating overhead and underground transmission designs FAQ

As Australia's energy system transitions from fossil fuels like coal, to renewable energy sources like wind, solar and hydro power, it is estimated more than 10,000km of new transmission lines will be built.

The purpose of this research collaboration is to bring transmission businesses, agricultural and community representatives together to improve the experiences of the communities impacted by these developments.

### What's the research about?

Many communities impacted by new transmission developments have suggested that new transmission lines should be built underground.

In some cases where overhead transmission designs have been decided, communities have suggested the option to build these lines underground has not been adequately considered.

We're seeking to understand community perspectives on decision-making about building new transmission lines (either overhead or underground).

This includes understanding what communities feel should be taken into consideration, how trade-offs should be managed, as well as expectations on the types of evidence and communications that should be provided to communities about these decisions.

### What will the research be used for?

The insights collected through this research will be used to develop a more transparent way for transmission businesses to make decisions and communicate about whether future transmission developments will be built overhead or buried underground. This includes being clear on exactly what factors have been considered and what types of evidence have been relied on.

### Who should get involved?

This research is open to anyone that would like to have a say. We particularly encourage any individuals and businesses impacted by a proposed transmission development project, living in a [Renewable Energy Zone](#) (p.48), or currently living near an overhead or underground transmission to get involved.

### Who is conducting the research?

[The Energy Charter](#) has engaged WSP to conduct the research. WSP are an independent, professional services company with specialist skills in social research, as well as the technical aspects of electricity transmission. All information collected by WSP will be managed in line with its [Privacy Policy](#).

### What's involved in participation?

The research team has already conducted interviews with organisations and community members from a range of backgrounds. To understand how the insights provided might apply to the broader community – we're now conducting an online survey.

The survey will take about 10–15 minutes to complete.

### About the Energy Charter

The Energy Charter is a unique coalition of like-minded energy organisations with a shared purpose and passion for customers and communities.

Our purpose is to empower one another across the energy supply chain to deliver better energy outcomes for customers and communities. Our vision is that together, we can create a better energy future for all Australians.

Take the survey now →

Learn more about this initiative →