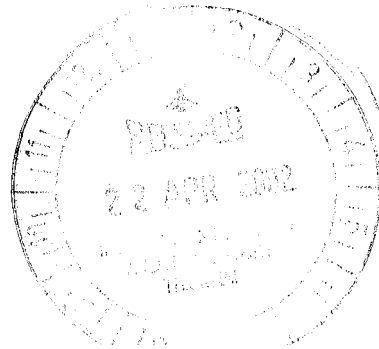


20th April, 2002

Electricity Undergrounding in New South Wales,
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal,
P.O. Box Q290,
QVB POST OFFICE. NSW 1230



Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Electricity Undergrounding in New South Wales

I attended your excellent Public Forum on Friday 19th April, 2002 and ongoing from that would ask that you be kind enough to accept and consider this brief submission in support.

The matters which I would like to address are:-

1. A more beautiful impact along streets and roads
2. Some ideas on how the project could be funded
3. Improved street lighting as a result of undergrounding

1. A more Beautiful Impact along Streets and Roads

I agree with one of the Speakers last Friday who spoke along the lines that this project is so important to the City and State that it should be embraced as a "Vision and Dream" with everyone being winners.

I think it could also be looked on as a "Mission Vision and Dream" the fulfillment of which would result in a removing of an incredible amount of ugliness which can be found around the Sydney Suburbs at present.

If I drive from my Suburb to the Royal National Park near Sutherland I would travel through about 5 or 6 different Local Council Areas. Each of these do their 'own thing' regarding street signs, roundabout markings etc. There is no such thing as uniformity except for the visual ugliness created by power poles and overhead wires not to mention the fate of trees which are disfigured continuously to make way for the wires.

For some time now Sydney has been promoting itself as a Top Rating City of International Standard. We have had the Olympics and other events with many more planned. However, can Sydney really boast of being of International Standing when one only has to travel along nearly any of the main roads and observe this ugliness which other truly International Cities did away with many years ago.

I would therefore ask you to please submit in your report to the Minister the "Mission, Vision and Dream" concept where everyone will clearly benefit from more beautiful streets not only around the Sydney area but in many other parts of New South Wales as well.

Let's start the project now as any delay will only mean more delays in the future!

2. Some Ideas on how the Project could be Funded

I know that this is a very turbulent area with conflicting options and opinions, however I would like to state the following.

- a. I support the Beneficiary Pays idea.
- b. I do not think areas should be allowed to "opt out" as this Project is for everyone.
- c. Electricity Companies should collect fees and on this point I suggest that all roads designated as Main Roads such as Parramatta Road, Victoria Road, Pacific Highway etc. and all major connecting Roads ie, Woodville Road, Canterbury Road etc. be paid for by everyone as we all use these roads at various times and would all benefit and reach our destinations feeling better **after** the elimination of the visual ugliness which can be found at present. For localised, suburban, residential streets the electricity companies could collect fees on the square kilometre basis. Therefore **I** support a levy for everyone for the Main Roads and one for each Local Community as undergrounding takes place.
- d. I do not support Local Councils having anything to do ~~with~~ collection of fees.

3. Improved Street Lighting as a result of Undergrounding

Undergrounding would give us a whole new window of opportunity for street lighting **both** in design and quality. In the central area of my suburb where undergrounding took place over **20** years ago the standard and appearance of the street lighting is much nicer than in the streets with overhead power lines.

I would also like to point out to you the very good result achieved along Pennant Hills Road when widening and undergrounding took place a few years ago, mainly north of Thompson's Corner. The concrete poles were installed well back from the kerb not only looking better but reducing the likelihood of traffic accidents involving the poles.

For the quiet, suburban streets we would have many more possibilities where designers could match the type of street lighting to the particular areas, eg. Federation, provided of course they met the Australian Standard. For this purpose I have enclosed 2 photocopies of pictures of street lighting in the very old Eastern German City of Leipzig where most of these beautiful lights have been installed within the last 10 years. I realise we may have to make alterations etc. to adapt to our situations and conditions but these do not diminish the possibilities.

In conclusion, undergrounding presents us with a real "Mission, Vision and Dream" to beautify our City and State. It transcends all the usual barriers we are inclined to raise at times such as socio-economic localities and presents us with a goal to benefit everyone and be substantially achievable in our lifetime if we start now.

Thanking you very much.

Yours faithfully,



Ronald D. Dunstan

Encl:

STREET LAMPS · LEIPZIG, EASTERN GERMANY

