

26/04/02 13:29

To: michael_seery@ipart.nsw.gov.au

cc:

Subject: Undergrounding Electricity Cables in NSW

Michael,

In response to the Interim Report I submit the following comments,

Whilst it may be difficult to estimate the ongoing cost to the community of injury/deaths from poles I would consider these to be significant. The report appears to ignore the benefit to the community of less trees being cut down and the beneficial impact on the environment. I consider this to be a major benefit to the community. I believe it is unrealistic to expect ratepayers to pay 80% of up to \$5,000 in costs. This ignores the obovementioned benefits. My street has part underground and part above ground - are you proposing to charge those who already have underground. I do not believe that my property is valued at \$5,000 less than properties in my street that have underground power/communications. If the levy is on ratepayers will landlords be given a legally enforceable right to recover this cost from their tenant - I doubt it. Whilst I would like to have the poles removed I am not prepared to pay this level of cost. It should be borne by the Government/suppliers of electricity/communications. I do not believe the community at large is aware of the financial impact of the proposals contained in the Report and would be unwilling to pay in the manner proposed.

Thank you

Mr Leigh Fitton