



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO.4 – REGIONAL NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

INQUIRY INTO THE IMPACT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONES (REZs) ON RURAL AND REGIONAL COMMUNITIES AND INDUSTRIES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1 August 2024

The Upper House committee for regional New South Wales has recently established an inquiry into the impact of Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) on rural and regional communities and industries in New South Wales.

The committee will examine the impacts of REZs and large scale renewable projects proposed for these zones, including factors such as potential fire risk, socioeconomic benefits, and effects on agricultural production, tourism and the environment.

The Committee Chair, the Hon Mark Banasiak MLC, said "The committee will investigate whether affected communities were adequately engaged and consulted in the development of REZs. It will also consider the adequacy of compensation for landholders and their neighbours. We will also look at current and projected supply and demand levels of manufactured products, raw materials, and their sources, and the human resources required to complete REZs."

Mr Banasiak continued: "The committee will explore the costs associated with the construction and maintenance of large scale projects within REZs, and how decommissioning bonds might work when the infrastructure built by the projects comes to the end of its operational life."

Additionally, the committee intends to investigate other aspects of large scale renewable projects, including whether there are suitable alternatives to traditional renewable energy sources.

Have your say

The closing date for submissions is 31 January 2025.

Individual contributors may prefer to complete the committee's online questionnaire rather than make a submission. The online questionnaire will be available online soon. The closing date for the online questionnaire is 31 January 2025.

Further information on the inquiry, including the terms of reference, are available on the inquiry [website](#).

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For further information please contact the Committee Chair, the Hon Mark Banasiak MLC, on 9230 2573