

Submission  
No 2

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

I have been watching the gradual increase in the renewable sector for over 10 years now. Along with the increase in not only the number of projects, but also the increase in community attention they have attracted, I find myself incredibly disappointed in the way in which the NSW government in particular has handled them. I have made submissions against some of the projects in my area, and attended and spoken at public forums, and it appears all for nothing. To my knowledge none of these projects,, which are classed as "projects of state significance", have been refused planning permission.

We are told that these projects will guarantee our power needs into the future, yet they remain extremely unreliable, and there is no way they can generate power that is able to cover a base load.

We have been told that these projects will lead to decreases in the cost of power to the consumer. Completely the opposite has been the reality, with prices heading north at an alarming rate.

I have had developers admit, on record, that they and the companies they represent, are building these projects, not for the sake of the environment, but to make a profit, plan and simple. These profits have there basis not in the amount of power they generate, but in the contacts they enter into with the government that "guarantee" them a return on investment. These returns have to be met via the people, the poor end consumer.

We are told that renewables are cheaper to build than nuclear when compared on a cost of power generation basis. This argument is based on the premise that renewables generate to their full capacity, ie 100%. This just isn't true. They are lucky to average 60%.

When are property owners that are nearby but not hosts going to be taken into consideration? I am one such owner, and at present face the very real prospect of having seven 230 metres high wind turbines within 3 km of my back door! Is this fair? My life and that of my family will be ruined. Who will want to buy my property should I want to sell it? I will be faced with a devalued property, and the only avenue available to seek just compensation is through the courts. Given that these type of issues are known right now makes a mockery of this current planning system.

Mudgee has one of the new REZ passing through our area. Have the people of NSW been made aware of the enormous cost of establishing these corridors? Corridors being constructed at taxpayer expense, so that these developers can then sell this overpriced power back to the grid. This is insane!

It has already been proposed that small nuclear power plants be constructed in the vicinity of coal fired power stations that are slotted for de-commissioning. These plants have an existing transmission grid already established, yet the government insists of spending a fortune building these REZ. The cost to the environment in terms of destruction of trees and native vegetation, the loss of productive agricultural land, the amount of raw materials including steel and concrete, all produced via mining, which contribute to pollution, and global warming.

Landholders that do sign up to accept wind turbines are sold on the idea principally because of the dollar signs. It will be future generations that are left to pick up the costs from all these projects, including the decommissioning of them when the companies that own them, sell them off to dummy shelf companies at the end of there lives, companies that have no assets and could not possibly pay the decommissioning costs.

One of the positives used to sell these projects is that they will provide a large number of jobs to locals, both in the construction and in the operational life of the project. In reality few local people or companies have the necessary expertise to build these projects, so the money is not spent locally, but instead paid to large companies, many of which are based off shore.

There is a great deal more that I could say, and if the opportunity were to arise, I would be happy to speak in person to further expound my views.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission.