

Submission
No 3

**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

The adoption of renewable energy in the New England region is a reflection of similar development being undertaken throughout Australia and worldwide. This reflects not only the cost-effectiveness of producing energy from solar, wind and hydro, compared to legacy hydrocarbon sources, but also the global imperative of minimising climate change for the benefit of all future generations.

CSIRO and other impartial institutes worldwide have definitively proven that electricity generated from renewables is significantly less expensive than that from coal, gas or nuclear. Therefore, lower electricity prices follow adoption of renewables.

Australia is a wealthy country blessed with ideal conditions for generation of electricity from renewables. Neither solar nor wind power need to impact the agricultural productivity of land. For example, recent studies show that sheep grazing under solar panel installations have better growth rates than those grazing in unmodified fields, due to the benefits of shade and dew-drip lines on the growth of grass.

There are some who regard wind or solar farms to be visually unappealing. It saddens me to think that they consider a minor personal viewpoint more important than a meaningful contribution to global welfare.

The New England region has everything to gain from an increase in renewable developments. These developments create jobs, produce cheaper power, but most of all they help to discharge our moral responsibility to act as far as we can to prevent catastrophic global climate change. We may be a minor player in global terms, but let no-one say we did not pull our weight.