

**Submission
No 5**

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

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The Hunter REZ , and I assume other REZ's in NSW , were selected without community consultation ; the current Federal Government have been critical of the Dutton Opposition's selection of potential nuclear power stations , without consulting the residents of those localities . This is surely an exercise in HYPOCRACY by the current Federal Labor Government .

Despite media hype suggesting that RURAL residents , generally , are welcoming these renewable developments into their areas , nothing could be further from the truth . Yes , there are those who either haven't YET been impacted by a renewable development , or/and those who are to HOST those developments , and receive compensation . But the MAJORITY don't want their scenic RURAL amenity destroyed by the establishment of what could only be described as INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT .

A spokesman for the "renewable industry" recently stated that because suburban / city-based residents have to "live amongst clutter" ,, HIS WORDS , NOT MINE ! ,, then those in rural areas should accept the industrialisation of rural areas ; I consider this to be an EXTREMELY ARROGANT and OFFENSIVE statement to make . City-based residents CHOOSE to live amongst the so-called "clutter" which he refers to , but not so with those who choose to live AWAY from his "clutter" in a rural environment .

It is a well-established fact in the Real Estate Industry , that those areas with heightened AMENITY , attract higher Land Values , simply because that is what a lot of people desire ,ie, scenic views and quiet ambience . In other words , people VALUE and give a VERY HIGH PRIORITY to the AMBIENCE of the area in which they choose to live . Those "authorities" pushing the further development of "renewables" in rural areas are refusing to acknowledge the significance of AMENITY .

Other adverse consequences of REZ's , particularly "wind farms" is the compromised ability for aerial fire-fighting support in those areas , especially as many of these developments are in hilly/mountainous terrain which is difficult to access from the ground .

It is also apparent that local wildlife (koalas/ wedgetail eagles /etc) are having their importance downgraded to a lower level , in favour of these developments .

As it currently stands , the hosts of these developments receive the benefits , whilst those who have to endure them receive little or nothing . Furthermore , any VPA payments made to Councils in relation to these developments , should be to the benefit of those residents immediately affected , and not to other areas of the Council LGA .

I believe NUCLEAR will ultimately become a significant source of power generation , and the wholesale / reckless rollout of renewables will prove to be a very expensive mistake .