

**Submission  
No 11**

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

**Name:** Ms Ifeanna Tooth

**Date Received:** 7 January 2025

---

As someone living in regional NSW, I understand how climate change poses one of the biggest risks to the environment, nature and what I and my friends, family & community depend on for our survival. The bushfires, floods & coastal erosion over the last few years gave us a taste of what is to come if we don't take action to tackle climate change. The Paris accord states that to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees and prevent catastrophic climate events and mass extinction we must reduce emissions by 43% by 2030.

Supporting renewable energy, ceasing our dependency on coal & gas is critical for the NSW government to achieve its legislated statewide emissions reductions targets. Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) are a key feature of the rollout of renewables in NSW. REZs are planned hubs for renewable energy development, priority regions for the coordination of renewable energy development to deliver energy to areas of high demand via transmission lines. There are five declared REZs across NSW.

The build of renewable energy through REZs is a once in a generation opportunity to transform rural and regional communities in NSW for the better through economic and community benefits, the ability to diversify industry and income streams for farmers, and increased nature restoration and protection opportunities. Everyone, including governments needs to be in support of REZs if we have any chance of continuing our current standard of living and protecting our environment on which we depend for our survival.

As a regional NSW voter I welcome more renewable energy projects in my back yard & elsewhere. Wind farms off the south coast are an excellent start.