

**Submission
No 17**

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

Name: Mr David Bowman

Date Received: 10 January 2025

To whom it may concern,

I am a fourth generation farmer in the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ), having resided and worked in the Dunedoo area all my life. Having now passed on both of my properties to my daughters, who are the fifth generation to farm this land, I continue to reside in the family home and remain actively involved in managing the properties.

My awareness of renewable energy projects in the area began in June 2022, and since then, they have become a source of ongoing concern. These developments have caused considerable distress and division among local landholders and the wider community. Myself and many others in the community have invested countless hours of unpaid time seeking to understand the projects, engaging with government bodies, and discussing concerns with fellow community members. Below is a summary of my involvement with the ongoing renewable energy initiatives in our region to date:

2022:

04/06/2022 – submission to NSW Department of Planning in response to Valley of the Winds Wind Farm Environmental Impact Statement

Valley of the Winds Wind Farm	SUB-44171488	04/06/2022	No	Object
Attachments	Comment / Message			
I object to this project because these big ugly steel monstrosities pollute the landscape which I will see most of them. Power should be generated in the area it is needed not pollute prime farm land with wind / sola farms and big power lines.				

14/10/2022 – letter via email to Roy Butler, Member for Barwon



David & Anne Bowman
Orana Renewable Area

Sent - Bigpond 14 October 2022 at 9:10 am

Mr Roy Butler
Member for Barwon

Dear Roy

As a farmer in the Dunedoo area I am deeply concerned about the amount of prime agricultural land being designated for renewal energy.

I am not against renew energy but it should be generated where it is needed. This would save costly power lines and would be more efficient as the loss between here and Sydney would be two thirds of the power generated.

Below are the reasons against renewables in this area:

- Loss of prime agricultural land.
- Polluting the landscape.
- Needing large costly power lines and substations.
- Noise pollution.
- Amount off diesel used in construction of roads etc.
- Traffic disruption and road maintenance.
- Aerial and ground fire fighting.
- The recycling of solar panels or wind towers.
- Most of all the splitting of communities, friendships and families which has already started.

There is no reason that a certain amount of power can't be generated in cities where the majority of power is needed. Every building should have renewable energy generation.
Also power should be conserved in cities with lights in buildings turned off at night when not in use.

A lot of absentee owners have purchased land to make money out of renewables and are not using the prime agricultural land as it should be.

Renewables can be generated anywhere and why is one area being inundated with solar panels and wind towers.

Regards

David Bowman

Response received on 19/01/2023 through Roy Butler MP from The Honourable Matt Kean MP:



The Hon. Matt Kean MP
Treasurer
Minister for Energy

Your ref: RB4382
Our ref: MD22/5045

Mr Roy Butler MP
Member for Barwon
Suite 1 Ground Floor
60 Maitland Street
NARRABRI NSW 2390

By email: barwon@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Butler Roy

Thank you for your letter on behalf of Mr David Bowman regarding the impacts of renewable energy projects in regional NSW. I appreciate you bringing Mr Bowman's concerns to my attention.

I note that Mr Bowman has raised a number of concerns about the potential cumulative impacts of renewable energy projects near Dunedoo including in regard to productive agricultural land, visual amenity, noise, local roads, firefighting and social cohesion in the local community. Mr Bowman also recommends the NSW Government consider hosting renewable energy projects in urban areas rather than in regional NSW and implement measures to reduce the overall demand for electricity.

Regarding impacts associated with renewable energy projects, I can advise that all major wind and solar projects are subject to detailed assessment and community consultation requirements under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. This includes the preparation and public exhibition of an Environmental Impact Statement that considers the issues raised by Mr Bowman in accordance with strict government standards and guidelines that set out performance measures to protect the environment and the amenity of local residents, including the NSW Wind and Solar Energy Guidelines.

In addition to the requirements under the planning system, I can advise that the Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) is working with local councils, communities, proponents and other stakeholders in the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone to address concerns about cumulative impacts on public services and infrastructure, including roads, waste facilities, accommodation, telecommunications and other social services.

EnergyCo is also finalising the arrangements for establishing a community benefit fund for the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone which will provide an opportunity for substantial contributions to be made to support community project and programs in the local area. I am advised that EnergyCo will be holding community information sessions in Wellington, Dunedoo, Gulgong and Coolah in February 2023 to provide further details about these initiatives and to listen to feedback from the community about potential funding priorities.

Finally, I note that while the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap focuses on delivering the Renewable Energy Zones, the NSW Government is also implementing a range of rebates, grants and schemes to reduce demand for electricity by households and businesses as we move our economy towards net zero by 2050 under the NSW Climate Change Policy Framework and the Net Zero Plan.

If Mr Bowman has any specific concerns about renewable energy projects in the Central West Orana REZ, I would encourage him to contact Mr Mike Young, Executive Director Planning and Communities at EnergyCo. Mr Young can be contacted on [redacted] or at [redacted]

Thank you for taking the time to bring this matter to the Government's attention.

Yours sincerely

Matt Kean MP
Treasurer
Minister for Energy

19.1.23

01/11/2022 – submission to NSW Department of Planning in response to Birriwa Solar Farm Environmental Impact Statement

Birriwa Solar Farm	SUB-49967706	01/11/2022	No	Object
Attachments				
Comment / Message				
I am not against renewable energy but I object to this project as it is on prime agricultural land and is in the eye sight of a lot of residents who will not benefit financially from it. Along with a project like the Birriwa Solar Farm you need massive, ugly power lines to transfer the power to be used a long distance away which makes it very inefficient as only a small amount of the generated power makes it to the intended destination. Power should be generated where it is to be used eg. the city should be and can be generating their own power by rooftop solar and wind towers etc.!! These projects are causing a lot of family/friendship issues. The regional road, water and medical infrastructure cannot handle the current population let alone the influx of people from developments like these. Maybe a good first step would be a campaign to educate the population to conserve power eg. turning air conditioners and lights off when buildings aren't in use.				

24/11/2022 – submission to NSW Department of Planning in response to Tallawang Solar Farm Environmental Impact Statement

Tallawang Solar Farm	SUB-51246206	24/11/2022	No	Object
Attachments				
Comment / Message				
I object to this project as the power is not being used in the area it is generated; it needs to be generated close to where power is needed. These types of developments should be done in urban areas where the power is used, and until the urban people start to generate some power why should it be taking up valuable farm land. The government should be promoting solar on every house in the city. A lot of these solar projects are being built on properties with absentee owners so the visual effect is of no consequence to them. Within a sixty kilometre radius of our house there are numerous renewable projects; this is not acceptable.				

2023:

03/02/2023 – telephone conversation with Mike Young, Executive Director, Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo)

- A phone call to discuss the forthcoming renewable energy initiatives in the region

13/02/2023 – NSW Farmers Meeting, Dunedoo

- Attendance by Mike Young, Executive Director of EnergyCo to provide an update on the emerging renewable energy plans within the REZ

15/02/2023 – attended an EnergyCo meeting in Coolah

- A community meeting to gather information regarding upcoming developments within the REZ

20/02/2023 – telephone conversation with EnergyCo and Steve Mudd, NSW Farmers

- Continued discussions regarding renewable energy projects and the associated transmission line developments within the REZ

28/02/2023 – Letter to the Editor of Dunedoo District Diary.

 David & Anne Bowman
Letter to the Editor

Sent - Bigpond 28 February 2023 at 10:04 am

Please find attached Letter to the Editor for the next edition of the Dunedoo District Diary.

Many thanks,
David Bowman

Dunedoo Diary – Letter to the Editor

Do you know that Dunedoo is in the middle of the Central West Orana (CWO) Renewable Energy Zone (REZ)? It is one of several created by the government, without community consultation, in NSW. These REZ's are managed by The Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo). In mid February, EnergyCo had three community consultation meetings in Wellington, Coolah and Gulgong but missed Dunedoo, even though it is surrounded by renewable energy projects. Did you know that the wind and solar installations are proposed mostly on viable agricultural land? What is this going to do to our land and scenic landscape? Do you realise how many projects are proposed for this district, both wind and solar? Did you know that it is estimated there will be 5000 workers at peak construction? Where will they live? How will services and amenities be provided? How will our medical services cope? Phone service is already at its limit; will we have any service with such a heavy increase in use? Do you realise water will be needed for construction, for roads and concrete bases, and housing workers? Will they be allowed access to the bore near the Dunedoo Polocrosse grounds? It's not that long ago all our local communities were on water restrictions due to drought. Has biosecurity been considered? Machinery and workers will be moving from property to property constantly. How safe will the school bus routes and Dunedoo main street feel with all the extra traffic; many being trucks or oversize loads? The Spicer's Creek Wind Project is proposing 117 wind turbines; imagine how many truck loads that will take! Have you thought that maybe more families will leave the district which will affect school buses and schools etc? There is a lot of talk about farmers causing pollution; what about the amount of diesel that will be burnt daily during the construction of these projects? EnergyCo is looking to acquire land for an energy hub with the threat of compulsory acquisition! Don't forget what Dunedoo got from Cobarra Coal!!!

Yours Sincerely,
David Bowman

06/03/2023 – letter via email to the Member for Barwon, Roy Butler

 David & Anne Bowman
REZ's
To:

Sent - Bigpond 6 March 2023 at 5:31 pm

Dear Roy,

After our discussion at the Dunedoo NSW Farmers' Association meeting and attending the Coolah EnergyCo meeting I feel that EnergyCo is bullying landholders into selling their properties. In Roy's Roundup, in the Coolah District Diary, you stated that you wanted to 'make sure everyone affected it dealt with fairly and equitably; this certainly is not the case in the Dunedoo district. The two affected, at this stage, David & Victoria Seis (I - David) and Stuart Bowman (I - Stuart) have been told to sign quickly or they will lose money. These properties are being purchased for the Merotherie Energy Hub but at this stage there is no oversize access, not to mention being across a flood plain and river, so there will probably be more land acquired to cater for a road upgrade. THIS IS TYPICAL GOVERNMENT PUTTING THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE!

You have said that it seems these projects will go ahead in the near future and you're hoping to get maximum community benefit; what about benefits for farmers who will bare the brunt of this whole bungle?

The NSW Farmers' Regional Debate in Wagga Wagga was focussed mainly on renewable energy and the impacts on agricultural land. There was a lot of talk of planning issues and the government having put the cart before the horse. Minister Matt Kean didn't even show up!!

I was threatened with compulsory acquisition when the Golden Highway was upgraded east of Dunedoo. Mike Young insists that EnergyCo hasn't compulsorily acquired any land, which is probably right, but the two landholders above have been threatened with it.

I am asking you to make the time, urgently, to contact these two people to discuss this matter.

Regards,
David Bowman

OFFICIAL

The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC

Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy,
Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage,
Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council



Your ref: RB4382
Our ref: MD23/1500

Mr Roy Butler MP
Member for Barwon
Suite 1 Ground Floor
60 Maitland Street
NARRABRI NSW 2390

By email:

Dear Mr Butler *Roy,*

Thank you for your letter on behalf of Mr David Bowman regarding the impacts of renewable energy projects in regional NSW. I appreciate you bringing his concerns to my attention.

I note that Mr Bowman has raised these same concerns previously and received a reply earlier this year. I have noted Mr Bowman's concerns about the potential cumulative impacts of renewable energy projects near Dunedoo including to productive agricultural land, visual amenity, noise, local roads, fire fighting and social cohesion in the community. I have also noted Mr Bowman's request for renewable energy projects to be placed in urban rather than regional areas and to reduce electricity demand.

All major wind and solar projects are subject to detailed assessment and community consultation requirements under planning legislation. This process includes the preparation and public exhibition of an Environmental Impact Statement that considers the issues raised by Mr Bowman in accordance with strict standards and guidelines to protect the environment and the amenity of residents.

I can also advise that the Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) has been engaging with local councils, communities, proponents and other stakeholders in the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) since mid-2022 to address concerns about cumulative impacts on public services and infrastructure, including roads, waste facilities, accommodation, telecommunications and other social services.

EnergyCo is developing community benefit initiatives for the Central West Orana REZ which will provide substantial support to community projects and programs in the local area. To support this work, EnergyCo held community information sessions in Wellington, Coolah and Guldong in February 2023 to provide an update on the initiatives.

EnergyCo invited feedback via a community survey between January and March 2023 to understand local views and sentiment about key issues. EnergyCo is now preparing a community feedback report detailing the responses received which is planned for release in the coming weeks.

The NSW Government is implementing a range of rebates, grants and schemes to reduce demand for electricity by households and businesses as we move our economy towards net zero by 2050 under the NSW Climate Change Policy Framework and the Net Zero Plan.

52 Martin Place Sydney NSW 2000
GPO Box 5341 Sydney NSW 2001

02 7225 6020
nsw.gov.au/ministers

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

If Mr Bowman has any specific concerns about renewable energy projects in the Central West Orana REZ, I encourage him to contact Mr Matthew Spratt, Acting Executive Director Planning and Communities at EnergyCo. Mr Spratt can be contacted on [redacted] or at [redacted]

Thank you for taking the time to bring this matter to my attention.

Sincerely

Penny Sharpe MLC

Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy
Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage

7/7/23

13/03/2023 – letter via email to Member for Dubbo, Dugald Saunders

From: David & Anne Bowman
Sent: Monday, 13 March 2023
To: ElectorateOffice Dubbo
Subject: Renewables

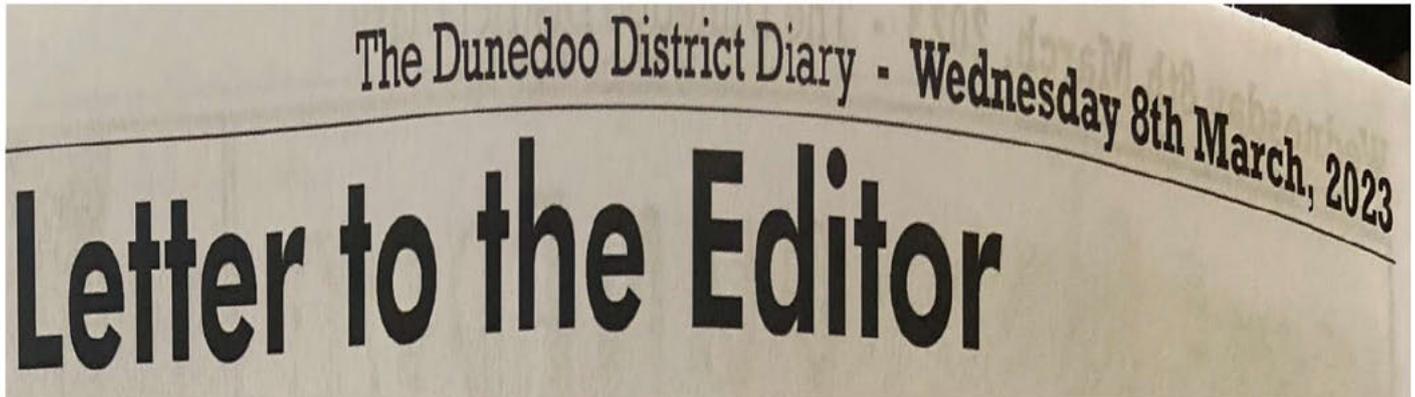
Dear Mr Saunders,

Attached is a letter I sent to the editor of the Dunedoo District Diary. I feel there a lot of local people that do not understand the impacts that these renewable projects are going to have on viable agricultural land, and it seems our government doesn't care!

I'm not sure if you are aware but two properties have been purchased (under duress!) in your electorate for an energy hub. As the outgoing Minister for Agriculture it is evident that you have no understanding of the land. With Sydney expanding into the city food bowl, where is all our food and fibre going to be produced? Why does such a small regional population have to be ripped apart to appease our city neighbours when they won't help themselves.

Just remember, this land is our castle! We will have to put up with it for life and not get any of the benefits.

Regards,
David Bowman



17/04/2023 – NSW Farmers Meeting Dunedoo Branch

- Ongoing discussions on the potential impacts of renewable energy projects within the region. Topics included the implications for local farmers, community concerns, and the broader economic and environmental effects of renewable energy development in the area.

01/05/2023 – Flynn's Solicitors Mudgee

- Attended an informational session to discuss the legal implications of renewable energy projects on agricultural land, including land use rights, contractual considerations, and potential legal protections for landholders.

15/05/2023 – EnergyCo pop-up information meeting, Dunedoo

- Q&A session addressing concerns and seeking clarification on the details of renewable energy projects in the region, with a focus on community impact and project specifics

02/06/2023 – Phone interview with Madeline Bawer, The Daily Telegraph

- Engaged in an interview to discuss the ongoing developments and community perspectives on renewable energy projects within the Central West Orana REZ

19/06/2023 – EnergyCo pop-up information meeting, Dunedoo

- Q&A session addressing concerns and seeking clarification on the details of renewable energy projects in the region, with a focus on community impact and project specifics

01/08/2023 – Meeting at Anne and Anthony Jones property

- Attendees included Andrew Gee, Federal Member for Calare and other farmers in the area
- Discussing concerns with the farming community surrounding evolving renewable energy projects

11/08/2023 – Tamworth Bush Summit, Rally Against Renewable Energy Projects

- 15 people travelled to Tamworth to participate in a rally opposing the development of renewable energy projects in our region
- Prime Minister in attendance but did not interact or address participants

18/08/2023 – submission to NSW Department of Planning in response to Spicers Creek Wind Farm Environmental Impact Statement

Spicers Creek Wind Farm	SUB-61375714	18/08/2023	No	Object
Attachments				
<small>Comment / Message</small> I am objecting to this project as I believe this is not green power! For a 30 year life the amount of diesel fuel used in manufacture and construction would outweigh the benefits. The transporting of 117 turbines which will be 819 oversize loads along the Golden Highway, this will take 27 months with one per day, not possible until the highway has an up grade with over taking lanes. There is no mention of the times that these oversize loads will be travelling through towns like Merriwa and Dureedoo. The RFS stated it is a fire prone area I hope you will be providing equipment to cover the extra risk as aerial fire fighting will not be possible. Job for the locals, we don't have the work force available now!				

18/08/2023 – email to EnergyCo opposing the proposed increase in size of the REZ

From: David & Anne Bowman
Sent: Friday, August 18, 2023 4:58 PM
To: EC Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone Mailbox <CWO@energyco.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Increase Network

To whom it may concern,

I total oppose to the increase of the Central West Orana REZ.

By now you should have heard that there is a lot of angry farmers across Australia protesting about the way renewable energy projects and power lines have been rolled out. We all know that it isn't going to fill the gap of the shutting down of coal fired power stations. The way the projects are constructed and transported is not green power and of course the power will be very expensive, I am not against renewable energy, we now have two farms on stand alone power system as we can see what is going to happen Before any increase in the REZ its time residential areas must contribute by fitting a system to there houses.

Yours sincerely
David Bowman

03/09/2023 – letter to Terry Conn, a fellow concerned citizen

 David & Anne Bowman
Re: Agriculture Minister Meeting
To: Margaret Conn

 CWO REZ 3 September 2023 at 3:30 pm

Good afternoon Terry,

Thank you for sending both your submissions which Stuart and I have printed to hand to the Minister.

I will now try to explain to you what I am hoping to tell her.

I have chosen an area within a 50km radius of Birriwa; an area of 785,400ha.

- Solar projects within this area in planning, construction and operating have a total area of approximately 7,060 ha, which is .9% of the chosen area.
- Wind projects in planning have a total area of approximately 63,500ha, which is 8.2% of the chosen area (total number of turbines is 602).
- Each turbine takes 7 OSOM (oversize loads) from Newcastle along the Golden H/way. 3 of those are 90 metres long (equal to a road train hooked up to 6 trailers). 602 turbines x 7 OSOM loads = 4214 from Newcastle down the Main Street of Merriwa at 2 loads every day would take 6 years or at 3 loads per day would take 4 years.
- The concrete base is 30 m x 30 m x 2.5 m = 2250 m³. It states in the EIS it takes a 12 hour day to pour which will take 250 to 300 loads. For the 602 turbines this is approximately 5 million m³ of concrete at an average of 8 m³ per truck is equal to 625,000 loads. This is of course without water, materials, cranes, roads, workers, etc.

Is this RENEWABLE ENERGY and what is it doing to peoples lives?!?!

If you have any comments please let me know.

Regards,
David

07/09/2023 – Invitational Meeting hosted by NSW Farmers

- Attendees included Tara Moriarty, Minister for Agriculture, Xavier Martin, NSW Farmers President, and affected landholders
- Hosted at “Gilgal”, property owner by Stuart and Donna Hackney, and at “Merotherie”, property owned by Jim and Mandy Bowman
- 5 hours duration

Notes from my presentation at the meeting:

“Facts about wind, solar and transmission line developments in the Dunedoo District

The area within a 50km radius of Birriwa is equal to 785,400ha.

Solar projects within this area in planning, under construction and in operation will make up 1.46% of the total area.

Wind developments currently in planning consist of 602 turbines and cover 63,500ha (8.1% of the total area).

PLUS workers camps, energy hubs, site offices, batching plants, quarries, power lines etc.

The overall repercussions of these projects could impact 15% of the total area outlined.

- *One turbine takes 7 oversize, over mass (OSOM) loads from Newcastle. Three of which are 90 metres long (equal to a road train with 6 trailers!).*

602 turbines x 7 OSOM loads = 4214 loads from Newcastle

at 2 loads per day would take nearly 6 years

at 3 loads per day would take nearly 4 years

CAN THE GOLDEN HIGHWAY HANDLE THIS TRAFFIC?

WHAT ABOUT MERRIWA’S MAIN STREET?

- *Each turbine concrete base is 30m x 30m x 2.5m = 2250m³. According to the Spicers Creek Wind Farm EIS it will take 8-12 hours to pour the approximately 250 to 300 loads of cement.*

602 turbines x 2250m³ = 1,354,500m³ of concrete

8m³ per load = 169,312 truck loads

THE ALTERNATIVES

Dubbo Base Hospital has a car park shaded by solar panels; why can't that be done everywhere?!?

Solar panels on vacant land and industrial buildings in major cities. Generating power where it will be used negates the need for major transmission line projects.

Government incentives for the general public and private business to contribute to the energy crisis.

THE DUNEDOO DISTRICT IS A TIGHTLY HELD AREA, PASSED DOWN THROUGH FAMILIES FOR GENERATIONS. IT'S ALWAYS BEEN KNOWN AS A SAFE FARMING COMMUNITY ON WHICH THE SMALL TOWNS RELY.”

13/09/2023 – Telephone conversations with the following people about ongoing renewables plans:

- Birriwa Solar Farm
- Roy Butler, Member for Barwon
- Concerned citizens: Terry Conn, Grant Piper, and Peter Rothwell

16/09/2023 – submission to NSW Department of Planning in response to Bellambi Heights Battery Energy Storage System Environmental Impact Statement

Bellambi Heights Battery Energy Storage System	SUB-62377493	16/09/2023	No	Object
Attachments Comment / Message While I am not against renewable energy it needs to be done in the right location for its needs. Renewable energy is swamping this area and affecting prime agricultural land and farmers livelihoods, especially without proper consultation from proponents and EnergyCo. It is stated in the EIS that this project is not within a bushfire prone area, but the surrounds are. The company must provide adequate fire fighting equipment and personnel especially in high fire danger rating periods and above.				

20/09/2023 – Article published in The Dunedoo District Diary titled “Impact of CWO Renewable Energy Zone on the district”

12 Issue No: 319/23

The Dunedoo District Diary - Wednesday 20th September, 2023

Impact of CWO Renewable Energy Zone on the district

With Emma and David Bowman

WHEN YOU'VE TAKEN some time to study the attached map (taken from the Sandy Creek Solar Farm Scoping Report) you will be closer to realising the cumulative impact of the solar projects currently in planning, under construction and in operation and the wind developments in planning for a 50km radius around Birriwa; just part of the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (CWO REZ).

The area within a 50km radius of Birriwa is equal to 785,400ha. If all of the currently proposed solar projects are approved, they, alongside the ones under construction and in operation will total 11,485ha. If the planned wind developments are approved there will be 602 wind turbines over 63,500ha. This does not include workers camps (7229 workers at peak construction for all proposed installations), energy hubs, site offices, batching plants, quarries and transmission lines. The overall repercussions of these projects could impact 15% of the total area outlined.

Some numbers you need to know.

- one turbine takes 7 oversize, overmass (OSOM) loads from Newcastle. Three of which are 90 metres long (equal to a road train with 6 trailers!).

602 turbines x 7 OSOM loads = 4214 loads from Newcastle at 2 loads per day would take nearly 6 years at 3 loads per day would take nearly 4 years

CAN THE GOLDEN HIGHWAY HANDLE THIS TRAFFIC?

WHAT ABOUT MERRIWA'S MAIN STREET?

- each turbine concrete base is 30m x 30m x 2.5m = 2250m³.

According to the Spicers Creek Wind Farm EIS it will take 8-12 hours to pour the approximately 250 to 300 loads of concrete.

602 turbines x 2250m³ = 1,354,500m³ of concrete

8m³ per load = 169,312 truck loads
IS THIS REALLY "GREEN"/"RENEWABLE"?

The 800 plus OSOM loads for the Spicers Creek Wind Farm will be transported through the main street of Dunedoo. The EIS states that "for the majority of the construction period, a moderate (average) traffic generation scenario has been assumed where maximum daily traffic generation would be 320 light vehicle trips and up to 66 non-OSOM heavy vehicle trips per day". It is not documented where these traffic movements will be made. How will this affect all traffic (eg. School buses, stock transport, general freight, commodities to and from the Newcastle port)?

There are numerous farmers facing compulsory acquisition of land for transmission lines. Those with inappropriate proposed routes (eg. Over cattle yards and sheds, and too close to houses) have suggested alternatives on their properties but it seems there is no compromise!

The flood plain along Merotherie Road is 1.7km wide. Water from the Talbragar River currently comes up, crosses the flood plain and subsides without serious, long-lasting disruption to agricultural activity. Making Merotherie Road an all weather access road to the proposed Merotherie Energy Hub, with culverts and other engineering solutions, will cause flooding upstream and concentrate and intensify

flows downstream resulting in significant erosion and create new drainage lines and artificial water courses.

The time spent by affected land holders on research and meetings with EnergyCo is unpaid and taking away from what they should be doing. It is becoming a major drain on peoples mental health and causing rifts in the local community. If the proposed renewable projects go ahead there are several young families who will leave the district; less farmers means less support for small towns which will affect the whole community.

Without land to host these developments there would be no need for any of the proposed infrastructure; least of all the compulsory acquisition of land from people who would rather be farmers than power generators!

This was all explained and shown to the Minister for Agriculture, Tara Moriarty, and her chief of staff at a meeting with NSW Farmers' Association representatives and a few local landholders on Thursday 7th September.

SO WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Contact your local member Roy Butler (barwon@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Dugald Saunders (dubbo@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Get in touch with EnergyCo cwo@energyco.nsw.gov.au

or visit them in their office at 155 Macquarie St, Dubbo

or near the Dunedoo Newsagency once a month.

Keep an eye out for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) from EnergyCo that should be released within the next month.

27/09/2023 – Telephone conversation with Dugald Saunders, Member for Dubbo

- Discussions surrounding ongoing renewables concerns

28/09/2023 – Meeting at “Gilgal”, Dunedoo

- Attendees included Stuart and Donna Hackney, David Bowman, Emma Bowman, and Mike Young, EnergyCo
- Discussions surrounding the possibility of changing the easement for powerlines on Gilgal

28/09/2023 – EnergyCo pop-up information meeting in Dunedoo

- Q&A session addressing concerns and seeking clarification on the details of renewable energy projects in the region, with a focus on community impact and project specifics

29/09/2023 – Telephone conversation to Dugald Saunders, Member for Dubbo

- Discussion in reference to Mike Young’s visit

05/10/2023 – Letter to North Western RFS Manager, Heath Stimson

 **David & Anne Bowman**
CWO REZ Transmission Project EIS
To: Heath Stimson

Sent - Bigpond 5 October 2023 at 10:57 am

Dear Heath,

Please find attached bushfire technical paper for the CWO REZ Transmission Project EIS. I have highlighted areas you may be able to comment on. We have a meeting with EnergyCo next Wednesday (11th) and we would like some comments from you please.

I have spoken to Aaron at Castlereagh Zone re the vegetation categories and he didn't even know they existed. I have found them on the RFS website. Would you like to make a comment about them and how they have rated the area in the different LGA's (maps in EIS)?

Kind regards,
David



Technical paper
10 - Bu...fire.pdf

- Attached is the bushfire technical paper for the CWO REZ Transmission Project EIS.
- No comment was able to be made.
- All comments come from head office and say there are no concerns.

BLACKASH
BUSHFIRE CONSULTING

Technical Paper 10 – Bushfire
Central-West Orana Renewable
Energy Zone Transmission Project

Prepared for
WSP



Version 4.0
15 September 2023



05/10/2023 – Received a letter from EnergyCo via email that I forwarded to the following people encouraging their attendance at the next EnergyCo community drop-in information session in Dunedoo:

- Roy Butler, Member for Barwon
- Dugald Saunders, Member for Dubbo
- Andrew Gee, Member for Calare
- Mark Coulton, Member for Parkes
- Ross Cadell, Senator

“Dear,

Please see below forwarded email from EnergyCo regarding the community drop-in information session at Dunedoo on Wednesday 11th October from 1pm-4pm. Your attendance would be greatly appreciated by our local community and you could gain valuable knowledge about the transmission project and how locals feel about it.

There is a presentation by EnergyCo following the information session for the NSW Farmers’ Association, Dunedoo Branch, from 5pm-6.30pm. Again your presence, or one of your staff, would be appreciated.

As you well know the Transmission Project EIS is a very large document. We are finding it very difficult to digest in the small amount of time we have been given compared to the time the authors had to complete it. I thank you both for your support in trying to extend the exhibition period but I feel we need to keep pushing for the extension.

In my previous email (9th September) I offered you both a tour of the area so you can see first hand the impacts of these projects on our district. That offer still stands and I look forward to doing this service for my community.

*Kind regards,
David”*

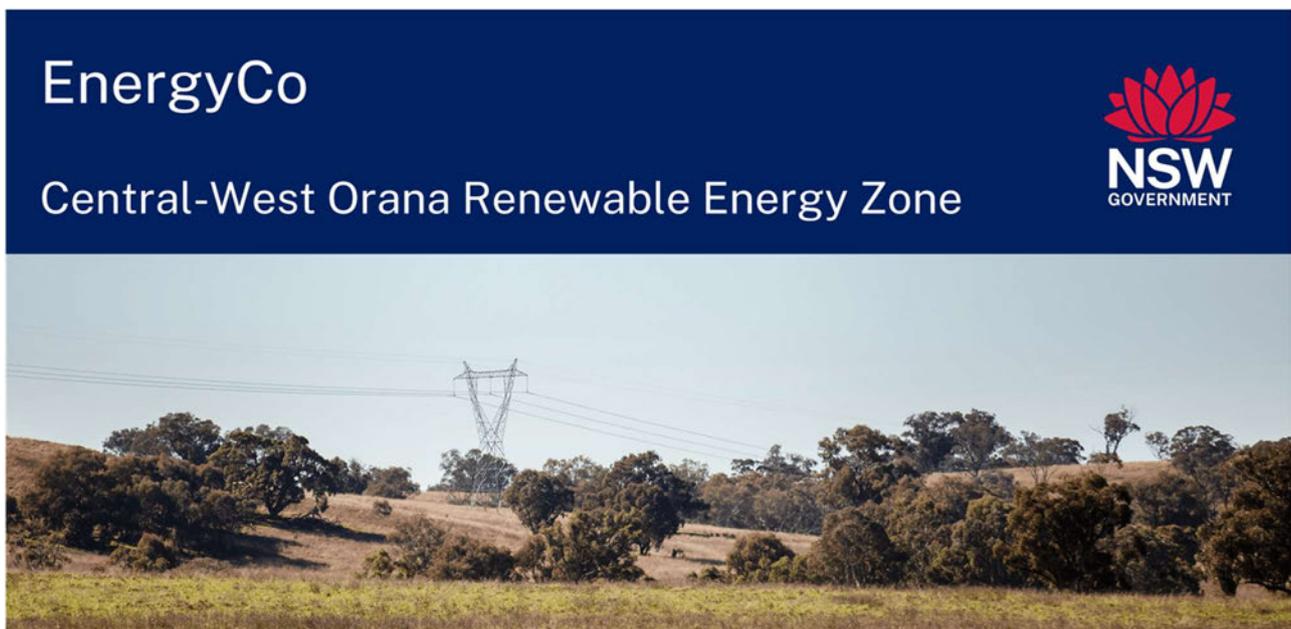
Begin forwarded message:

From: Energy Corporation of NSW <noreply@cwenergyco.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: Central-West Orana REZ transmission project - Environmental Impact Statement now on public exhibition

Date: 28 September 2023 at 2:41:54 pm AEST

To: David Bowman



EnergyCo is delivering the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) to provide a clean, affordable and reliable power supply for energy consumers across NSW. The REZ will initially unlock at least three gigawatts of new network capacity from solar, wind and storage projects within the next decade.

Environmental Impact Statement now on public exhibition

EnergyCo has developed an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Central-West Orana REZ transmission project. The NSW Department of Planning and Environment has placed the EIS on public exhibition for 28 days until Thursday 26 October 2023. During the exhibition period, you can view the EIS and make a submission on the [NSW Planning Portal](#).

The EIS includes a detailed description of the REZ transmission project and how it will be built and operated. It provides a technical assessment of the project, including potential economic, environmental and social impacts. It also outlines a range of mitigation measures which would be implemented to avoid, minimise and/or mitigate potential impacts to the surrounding environment and local communities during construction and operation.

[Click here](#) to view the EIS on the NSW Planning Portal.

Community drop-in information sessions

To support the public exhibition of the EIS, EnergyCo is holding a series of pop-up stalls and drop-in information sessions across the region.

Please click 'register' for the information session you wish to attend and let us know any key topics of interest to you. This will help us to ensure we have the right team members to answer your questions at the sessions.

Wellington

Wellington Soldiers Memorial Club, 73 Arthur Street, Wellington

Monday 9 October, 3pm to 5pm

[Register](#)

Coolah

The Octagon Auditorium, St Andrews Anglican Church,

17 Binnia Street, Coolah

Tuesday 10 October, 11am to 2pm

[Register](#)

Dunedoo

Jubilee Memorial Hall, 154 Bolaro Street, Dunedoo

Wednesday 11 October, 1pm to 4pm

[Register](#)

Gulgong

Gulgong Memorial Hall, 112 Herbert Street, Gulgong

Thursday 12 October, 3pm to 6pm

[Register](#)

Coolah

The Octagon Auditorium, St Andrews Anglican Church,

17 Binnia Street, Coolah

Tuesday 17 October, 3pm to 6pm

[Register](#)

Dunedoo
Jubilee Memorial Hall, 154 Bolaro Street, Dunedoo
Wednesday 18 October, 10am to 1pm

[Register](#)

Mudgee
St John's Baptist Church Hall, 2 Church Street Mudgee
Wednesday 18 October, 4pm to 6pm

[Register](#)

Gulgong
Gulgong Memorial Hall, 112 Herbert Street, Gulgong
Thursday 19 October, 11am to 2pm

[Register](#)

Community pop-up stalls

EnergyCo is also holding a number of pop-up events across the region to provide information about the EIS.

Coolah
Outside IGA, 51/53 Binnia Street, Coolah
Tuesday 3 October, 9am to 12pm

Dunedoo
Outside Dunedoo Newsagency, 46 Bolaro Street, Dunedoo
Tuesday 3 October, 1pm to 4pm

Gulgong
Outside IGA, 90/100 Mayene Street, Gulgong
Tuesday 3 October, 9am to 12pm

Mudgee
Outside the Newsagency, 2/75 Market Street, Mudgee
Thursday 28 September, 1pm to 4pm
Tuesday 3 October, 1pm to 4pm

Wellington
Corner of Nanima Crescent and Swift Street, Wellington
Friday 29 September, 10am to 12pm
Wednesday 4 October, 10am to 12pm

Merriwa
Outside IGA, 104 Bettington Street, Merriwa
Wednesday 4 October, 9am to 1pm

Tools and resources

EnergyCo has developed a range of supporting resources and tools to help you better understand the EIS and learn more about key topics. This includes a digital EIS, interactive map, fact sheets and guide to the EIS.

Visit energy.nsw.gov.au/cwo for more information.

Have your say

We encourage you to make a formal submission about the EIS for the REZ transmission project. This ensures that feedback can be considered by the Department of Planning and Environment prior to any final decision on the project. EnergyCo will develop a submissions report responding to the issues raised from submissions, which will be released in early 2024.

To view the EIS and make a formal submission, visit the [NSW Planning Portal](#).

Submissions close Thursday, 26 October 2023.

Get in touch

For more information about the Central-West Orana REZ, you can visit our website or contact the project team:

Phone: 1800 032 101 (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday)

Email: cwo@energyco.nsw.gov.au

Website: energyco.nsw.gov.au

Office: 155 Macquarie Street, Dubbo

To view EnergyCo's interactive map of the REZs, visit caportal.com.au/energyco/rez.

You've received this e-newsletter because you registered your contact details with EnergyCo for the Central-West Orana REZ project. For privacy information, visit energy.nsw.gov.au/privacy. To unsubscribe from these emails, click the link below or contact the project team.

07/10/2023 – submission to NSW Department of Planning in response to Birriwa Solar Farm Environmental Impact Statement

Birriwa Solar Farm	SUB-63125723	07/10/2023	No	Object
Attachments				
Comment / Message				
<p>I'm an uneducated 70 year old farmer and I can see this project is impossible. I object to this amendment of the Birriwa Solar Factory. The entry road will not be able to carry the traffic volume of the workers to the camp site let alone the day to day traffic flow. To cater for that there would have to be a lot of trees removed which is not environmentally friendly and as farmers we would not be allowed to remove that volume of trees.</p> <p>Water for the camp is stated to be 125,000 litres per day. This would be equivalent to 29 truck loads per week from Windermere Dam which is at least 100 kilometres away and most likely will not be full when required. Also the same amount of sewerage will have to be disposed of. The underground water supply in that area is very limited.</p> <p>This is a high fire prone area and there was a life lost in that locally in the December 1979 fire that started west of Dunedoo and finished at Ulan.</p>				

09/10/2023 – telephone conversation with Hamish Southwell, Prime 7 News

- Interview regarding ongoing renewable energy concerns

11/10/2023 – EnergyCo meeting at Dunedoo Jubilee Hall

- Information session regarding renewables
- 1 hour duration

17/10/2023 – EnergyCo meeting at Coolah

- Information session regarding renewables
- 1 hour duration

29/10/2023 – submission to NSW Department of Planning in response to Central West Orana REZ Transmission Environmental Impact Statement

Central-West Orana REZ Transmission	SUB-64051727	29/10/2023	No	Object
Attachments				
Comment / Message				
<p>As a retired farmer and still living and working on the family farm I object to this project on the grounds that generating power and building massive power lines for it to be used hundreds of kilometres away will not be productive, feasible or cost effective. The so called experts that compiled the 8000 pages of the EIS obviously have never seen this area.</p> <p>The transmission lines that are dividing farmers properties are not high enough to allow farming equipment to operate safely or allow them to fully utilise their property, which in some cases is divided in half or crosses a major laneway multiple times. Some machines are now 5 metres plus high. There are also cases where the lines are proposed within 500m of the main outlook of farmers houses.</p> <p>There is mention of workers camps but no specific building details.</p> <p>A lot of water is needed per year for this project, and it is uncertain where EnergyCo is going to source this water. The water supply in this valley is very restricted, and there is not a lot of underground water at the main energy hub. If there is no water available locally ie. the Talbragar River is not in flood, where will the water be carted from? Is it feasible to cart this amount of water from outside the project area?</p> <p>There is talk of the main access road to the Merotherie Energy Hub, along the Merotherie Road which is a flood plain, being upgraded and a new bridge placed over the Talbragar River. Upgrading this road could have major implications to the water flow and on the whole Talbragar River system. Back roads in the energy hub area have been rated as being able to handle 1000 vehicles per lane per hour at 100km/hr; this is ridiculous as some parts of these roads are single lane with trees very close to the edge of the roads.</p> <p>There is no mention of the December 1979 bushfire that started West of Dunedoo and ended up at Ulan, and burnt through the Birriwa area, a lot of which is now the proposed project area. It is noted that in the EIS for fire fighting within the accommodation camps and construction compounds there is to be 20,000L water tank with a 38mm outlet and a slip on fire fighting unit. This is not adequate! The Fire & Rescue and RFS in the local area does not have enough equipment or volunteers/staff to support your work load. EnergyCo should be supplying adequate fire fighting water and equipment within camps and have trained personnel to look after the camp and construction sites. There is no mention of where workers would evacuate to in extreme and catastrophic fire danger rating periods, local evacuation centres cannot handle that extra number of people.</p> <p>The way EnergyCo has dealt with farmers is very unAustralian, and has made the district anti CWO REZ.</p>				

30/10/2023 – Community meeting at Sports Club in Dunedoo

- Called by Emma Bowman and Sal Edwards to inform the community of what is happening in the REZ
- This had a large uptake in the community with hundreds of landholders and town members present
- See additional attachments: “Community meeting ppt” and “community meeting presentation”.

01/11/2023 – Letter to Ted O'Brien MP, Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy

 David & Anne Bowman
Central West Orana Renewal Energy Zone
To: O'Brien, Ted (MP)

Sent - Bigpond 1 November 2023 at 2:17 pm

Ted O'Brien MP
Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy

Dear Ted

I noticed you and the Opposition Leader, Peter Dutton, on national television news opposing offshore wind along the coast.

The CWOREZ is much further advanced than the offshore wind and we are struggling to get any support as we are the forgotten few even though the power produced here will be for the people along the coast. The only political visits we have been able to get are Tara Moriarty, Andrew Gee, Ross Cadell and our local member Roy Butler with very little support.

On 25th October I spoke to your office and emailed related documents outlining the issues that are happening here.

There was a Public Meeting held in Dunedoo last Monday with 140 people (a large percentage of our population) attending unanimously against the projects being put on our prime agricultural land. There will be 11,000 hectares totally taken out of agricultural production in a 50km. radius which will affect rural business houses, schools etc. in the towns in this region. Attached is a copy of the presentation given at the Public Meeting.

EnergyCo has treated landholders very disrespectfully and it is getting close to compulsory acquisitions being enacted. This is causing a lot of stress and anger in the community.

The EnergyCo EIS of 8000 pages which was released on 28th September and closes on 8th November is an incomplete document. There are 27 sections missing! It is like applying for a DA for a one storey house and building unit block!

It looks like we will have to go to the National Press and protests at Parliament House to be heard.

I extend to you an invitation to come to Dunedoo and I can show you around the district to show you first hand what impact this is having on our community.

Regards
David Bowman
Curragundi
Dunedoo



community meeting.pdf



PRESENTATION.pdf

02/11/2023 – Car trip around Birriwa Solar Farm and Merotherie are

- Attendees were Roy Butler, Member for Barwon and his staff, Mel Manchee
- Showing them around proposed location for Birriwa Solar Farm and transmission lines through the area
- 2 hours duration

02/11/2023 – Email to Mel Manchee, staff to Roy Butler, Member for Barwon

 David & Anne Bowman
Presentation and notes
To: Mel Manchee

Sent - Bigpond 2 November 2023 at 6:43 pm

Hi Mel,

Please find attached the presentation and notes Emma read from on Monday night at the Community meeting. It has a lot of extra numbers in it.

Thank you very much for your time this morning.

Kind regards,
David



community meeting.pdf



PRESENTATION.pdf

09/11/2023 – Email to Stephen Lawrence, MLC



David & Anne Bowman
CWO REZ

To: Officeof.MLCLawrence@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Sent - Bigpond 9 November 2023 at 11:43 am

Dear Stephen,

As per phone call to Josh Black this morning please find attached presentation and notes and objection written by my daughter Emma.

I discussed with Josh that we have noticed that the Deputy Mayor of Dubbo Regional Council, Richard Ivey, is a partner of the business that was engaged to prepared the Agriculture Technical Paper for the CWO REZ Transmission Project EIS.

The EIS exhibition period closed last night. Affected landholders received an email yesterday afternoon stating their intention to begin the compulsory acquisition process, before the project is approved by the planning department. These landholders have been bullied, deceived, coerced, silenced and treated terribly throughout the EnergyCo "consultation" process.

At this stage the CWO REZ projects are clustered around the Dunedoo district. The small towns in this REZ are going to suffer most.

Kind regards,
David Bowman



community meeting.pdf



PRESENTATION.pdf



CWO REZ Transm...ion.pdf

20/11/2023 – Telephone conversation with Jane Norman from ABC

30/11/2023 – Attended Reckless Renewables Rally at Parliament House in Sydney

- 4 attendees
- 1 day duration

01/12/2013 – Telephone conversation with Jane Norman from ABC

03/12/2023 – submission to NSW Department of Planning in response to Burrendong Wind Farm Environmental Impact Statement

Burrendong Wind Farm	SUB-65363235	03/12/2023	No	Object
Attachments				
Comment / Message				
<p>I object to this project on the grounds that you do not have a social licence and that you will damage the environment. It states that the project site is on land that is very remote and rugged, this to me means massive roads to be carved out of the side of hills and the loss of a lot of trees. All of this destruction to the environment for a project that is only 18% efficient in generating electricity.</p> <p>Aerial fire fighting will not be able to be used in the area as along with all the other wind projects in the district it will not be possible for aircraft to operate. It states that the local RFS and Fire and Rescue crews will be available to attend fires, I don't think this will happen! You must have your own fire fighting equipment plus RFS trained employees.</p> <p>The survey carried out was not from the local area, if you did it would be a different answer, the only ones in support are those that are receiving the massive handouts and don't care about the damage you will be doing to the environment.</p> <p>Workers accommodation for 650 jobs you state will be in local towns I don't think so, those rooms are for the tourist trade, not to be booked for long periods.</p> <p>Waste needs to be taken back to the coast waste stations, no room in local facilities.</p> <p>Transport of OSOM turbine parts a long the Highway from port is not possible with the disruption to the transport carting produce to port. Why not use the railway to transport the turbines? Otherwise the loads need to be made shorter to not disrupt the traffic.</p> <p>This is meant to be renewable energy, manufacture, transport and construction are all powered by fossil fuel. So lets start to show us that this is renewable power by using electric powered equipment and not destroying our district pushing out trees and carving massive roads up hills.</p>				

2024:

06/02/2024 – Attended Reckless Renewables rally in Canberra

- 10 attendees
- 2 days duration

07/02/2024 – EnergyCo meeting in Dunedoo

09/02/2024 – Telephone conversation then follow-up letter to Roy Butler, Member for Barwon

 David & Anne Bowman
CWO REZ
To: |

Sent - Bigpond 9 February 2024 at 4:02 pm

Dear Roy,

Thank you for the phone call today with you and John. Below are four of the major problems on the ground in the CWO REZ at this point.

1. Tax implications for transmission compensation (voluntary agreement or compulsory acquisition) - there is no adequate advice around this matter.
2. Compulsory acquisition should be paused immediately, for at least 6 months, as should all projects in CWO REZ - there needs to be more emphasis placed on the cumulative impacts of all projects in the region.
3. Environmental impacts - tree clearing, land levelling and impacts on habitat and wildlife.
4. EnergyCo's conduct toward affected communities - disrespect and disregard shown to landowners and community members.

Kind regards,
David

13/02/2024 – Meeting called by NSW Farmers

- Attendees included Penny Sharpe, Minister for Energy of NSW, Daniel Mookhey, Treasurer of NSW, Annabel Johnson, NSW Farmers CEO, and other NSW Farmers representatives
- Meeting called by NSW Farmers discussing issues arising with renewables

My submission at the meeting to The Honourable Penny Sharpe:

"I am a 4th generation farmer (still living in my parents' house) and have and have handed the property to my 5th generation daughter Emma.

The property 8 kms east of Dunedoo is divided by the Golden Highway which I remember when it was a gravel road, and also a railway line which was originally unfenced. I have had to deal with the everyday management issues these both cause all my life.

Within the CWOREZ there is proposed to be over 900 turbines and 17,000 ha. of solar projects.

There could be about 9,000 over size over mass loads from Newcastle, some of which will be 90 metres long (equal to a road train with 6 trailers). Plus the transport of living quarters, steel etc.

Can the Golden Highway handle this traffic? No it cannot!

This Highway is the transport route for all produce to and from Western NSW.

It will take many years to get this highway up to standard to handle this traffic at the speed roadworks now take.

Dunedoo had a kick in the guts with the Cobbora Coal debacle about 10 years ago – now here we go again.

Our leaders and Government organisations such as EnergyCo have no idea how farming and rural communities work but they think they do.

It stands out to me that our governments are not environmentalists. There will be a lot of trees to be cleared, massive roads to be constructed, water carted and a massive amount of diesel burnt.

Minister this is not renewable energy?

Then what is the heat and glare off the panels going to do for climate.

We are off the grid generating power for the whole property since June 2023 which is a total of 240 days. The generator has worked equivalent to 78 days of power. This means without a generator we would have been without power for one third of the time. So is solar efficient renewal energy?

So what should you do?

- ** Generate power where needed eg. Rooftop solar on every roof and storage batteries. I suggest 6Kv solar and 10 Kv battery*
- ** Underground all powerlines.*
- ** Only one 500 Kv transmission line in this area.*
- ** And last of all Minister, you need to write to all affected farmers and apologise for the manner in which they have been treated by EnergyCo.*

Then stall this project for at least 6 months.”

14/02/2024 – Travelled to Dubbo to visit the Dugald Saunders, Member for Dubbo

- Meeting with EnergyCo representatives, James Hay, Ash Albury, and Gerard Reiter

30/03/2024 – Road trip with The Honourable John Ruddick MLC

- Travelled to Cassilis and Merotherie areas to visit affected farmers on their properties
- 1 day duration

05/06/2024 – Independent Planning Commission Inquiry for Birriwa Solar Farm at Dunedoo Hall

- 5 hours duration
- I attended the hearing at Dunedoo Jubilee Hall where there was discussion about the removal of a large number of regenerative trees I had planted on a property I had previously owned. The attitude of the ACEN representatives towards community members made me upset and I made a comment I shouldn't have made to an ACEN representative. In turn, I lost my firearms license and my rifles which I rely on for work. Please see the below letter from the solicitor.

See below a copy of the notice of suspension:



Notice of Suspension - P485

Firearms Act 1996 - sections 22, 23 & 30 & Weapons Prohibition Act 1998 - sections 16 & 17

Police have the authority to seize firearms under sections 25(2) & 30(7) of the Firearms Act 1996 where a firearms licence or permit is suspended, revoked or otherwise ceases to be in force.
 Police have the authority to seize prohibited weapons under section 19(2) of the Weapons Prohibition Act 1998 where a prohibited weapon permit is suspended, revoked or otherwise ceases to be in force.
 The firearms licence or permit holder has a legal obligation under sections 25(1) & 30(6) of the Firearms Act 1996 to immediately surrender to police any firearm in the person's possession and the licence or permit, when a licence or permit is suspended, revoked or otherwise ceases to be in force.
 The prohibited weapon permit holder has a legal obligation under section 19(1) of the Weapons Prohibition Act 1998 to immediately surrender to police any prohibited weapon in the person's possession and the permit, where a prohibited weapon permit is suspended, revoked or otherwise ceases to be in force.

Name David Bowman.
 Address _____
 Licence / Permit No _____ Licence / Permit Type A LB
 Constable Peter HADLOW

Being a delegate of the Commissioner of the NSW Police Force, do hereby give notice of the suspension of the above authority on the following grounds:

not being a fit and proper person, threats made to shoot persons regarding a solar farm installation.

Suspension Commencement Date 6th June 2024 Suspension Expiry Date _____

Signed this Thursday the 6th day of June 20 24

Date 06/06/2024

Name & Rank Cst Peter Hadlow Regd No 54111

Police Station & LAC Dunedoo P/S - Drona Mid Western PD.

During the period of suspension, you are not authorised to possess or use firearms and you may make written submission to the Commissioner as provided by section 22(1)(b) of the Firearms Act 1996 & section 16(1)(b) of the Weapons Prohibition Act 1998, giving reasons why the authority above should not be revoked.

FIREARM DETAILS

Under the Authority of the sections 25(2) & 30(7) of the Firearms Act 1996 & section 19(2) of the Weapons Prohibition Act 1998 all firearms listed below have been seized (if there is insufficient room below, attach a list or a printout from ILS):

FIREARM MAKE AND MODEL OR PROHIBITED WEAPON DESCRIPTION	SERIAL NUMBER OF FIREARM	EFIMS BAR CODE NUMBER	POLICE STATION HOLDING FIREARMS
<u>BRN072 - Rifle</u>	<u>85232</u>		<u>Coonabrabran</u>
<u>Roland Arms - shotgun</u>	<u>6012</u>		<u>Coonabrabran</u>

LICENCE / PERMIT DETAILS LICENCE OR PERMIT SEIZED YES NO

LOCATION OF LICENCE OR PERMIT Coonabrabran. EFIMS No _____ EVENT NUMBER E 97301372

See legal fees for solicitor regarding suspension of firearms licence:



Booth Brown

L E G A L

3/65 Church Street, (PO BOX 20), Dubbo NSW 2830
Telephone: 02 6882 1844 Facsimile: 02 6882 2633 DX: Dubbo
A.B.N. 97122792572

TAX INVOICE

Our Ref: CE:KR:22174

Invoice No: 15631

11 July 2024

Mr D K Bowman
"Curragundi"
15045 Golden Highway
Dunedoo NSW 2844

FIREARMS LICENCE SUSPENSION APPEAL

Professional Fees

Date	Description	Amount	GST
11/07/2024	To our costs associated with advising you on the suspension of your firearms licence, drafting and serving submissions on the Commissioner of Police seeking the lifting of the suspension: -	\$1,200.00	\$120.00
Total		\$1,200.00	\$120.00

TOTAL COSTS	\$1,200.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 0.00
TOTAL GST	\$120.00
TOTAL (GST inclusive) – PLEASE PAY THIS AMOUNT	\$1,320.00

This includes GST of \$120.00

With Compliments

BOOTH BROWN LEGAL

Jessica Allan
Solicitor

28/7/24

Booth Brown Legal
ABN 97 122 792 572

PLEASE RETURN THIS SECTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT
P.O. Box 20, DUBBO NSW 2830

REMITTANCE ADVICE

Our Ref: CE:KR:22174

INVOICE No. 15631

To: Mr D K Bowman
Re: Firearms Licence Suspension Appeal

Payment due: 25 July 2024

Amount: \$1,320.00

See letter from solicitor regarding suspension of firearms licence:

Commissioner of Police
Firearms Registry
NSW Police Force
Locked Bag 5102
Parramatta NSW 2124

By email only:

Dear Commissioner,

**Re: Suspension of Firearms Licence
David Kenneth Bowman
Licence no. 406472374**

We act for Mr David Kenneth Bowman.

On 6 June 2024, Constable Peter Hadlow of NSW Police attended Mr Bowman's property at Dunedoo and served on him the enclosed Notice of Suspension of Mr Bowman's firearms licence. Constable Hadlow also seized the firearms listed in the Notice. We note that the suspension of Mr Bowman's licence is for an indefinite period, with no suspension expiry date listed on the Notice.

It is submitted that the Notice of Suspension should be lifted immediately and Mr Bowman's firearms returned to him, for the reasons set out below.

Reason for suspension

The Notice gives the following grounds for the suspension:

Not being a fit and proper person, threats made to shoot persons regarding a solar farm installation.

On 5 June 2024, Mr Bowman attended a hearing of the Independent Planning Commission at Dunedoo Jubilee Memorial Hall into the proposed Birriwa Solar Farm. The Birrawa Solar Farm is a proposal by ACEN Australia to develop a solar farm, energy storage facility, on-site temporary accommodation facility and associated infrastructure 19 kilometres south-east of Dunedoo on the Castlereagh Highway. According to the NSW Independent Planning Commission, the decision on whether the Birriwa Solar Farm will be given planning approval has been referred to the Commission because the

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure received at least 50 unique submissions objecting to the proposal and one of the two local councils also objected.¹

The meeting attended by Mr Bowman on 5 June 2024 was the final public meeting into the proposal. The transcript of the meeting, available on the Commission's website, shows that 17 community members spoke at the meeting and all were opposed to the current proposal. This gives an indication of the depth of feelings of frustration and discontent at the meeting.

At the conclusion of the meeting, which went for approximately 4½ hours, Mr Bowman spoke with an ACEN representative, Mr Cedric Berge. Mr Bowman and his family previously owned the property which is the proposed site of the Solar Farm. Mr Bowman was concerned about the removal of a large number of regenerative trees that he and his family had planted on the property between the years 1991 and 2000.

Mr Bowman concedes that he was blunt in his views to Mr Berge that the trees should not be removed, and that it seemed counterintuitive to remove the trees in the name of a green energy project. He was frustrated that another ACEN representative had previously assured him the trees wouldn't be removed and was unhappy with the attitude of the ACEN representatives towards community members during and after the meeting.

Mr Bowman also concedes that in the heat of the moment he said words to the effect of "your life could be on the line". Mr Berge ended the conversation at that point and walked away from Mr Bowman. Mr Bowman denies that he made any threat to shoot Mr Berge or any other person. He did not intend to threaten Mr Berge but realised after making the statement that it would have been interpreted as a threat by Mr Berge. Immediately following the conversation, Mr Bowman told others still present at the meeting what he had said.

Requirements of the *Firearms Act 1996* (NSW)

Section 22 of the *Firearms Act 1996* ('the Act') allows the Commissioner to suspend a person's firearms licence if satisfied that there may be grounds for the person's licence to be revoked.

Section 24 of the Act sets out the circumstances in which a person's firearms licence may be revoked. Relevant to Mr Bowman's Notice of Suspension, section 24(2)(c) states that the Commissioner may revoke a firearms licence if she "is of the opinion that the licensee is no longer a fit and proper person to hold a licence".

¹ [Independent Planning Commission - Birriwa Solar Farm \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.independentplanningcommission.nsw.gov.au/)

Fit and proper person test

The Act does not define what constitutes a “fit and proper person”.

In *Macdonald v Commissioner of Police, New South Wales Police Force* [2017] NSWCATAD 199, the Tribunal provided a summary of the law in relation to the fit and proper person test. It cited (at 144) the case of *Australian Broadcasting Tribunal v Bond* (1990) 94 ALR 11 as the lead authority on the test. That case reasoned that “fit and proper” takes its meaning from its context, which in this case (as it was in *Macdonald*) is the firearms licensing scheme.

In *Constantin v Commissioner of Police, NSW Police Force* [2012] NSWADT 172, a case which similarly involved firearms licensing, the Tribunal cited (at 52) the following guidance set out in *Pobjie v Commissioner for Fair Trading, NSW Office of Fair Trading (No 2)* [2008] NSWADT 39:

114 Fitness and propriety are flexible concepts. A consideration of whether a person is fit and proper involves an assessment of their knowledge, honesty and ability in the context of the role they are seeking to undertake.

In relation to the application before it, the Tribunal further stated (at 53):

In considering whether the Applicant is a fit and proper person, the authorities, set out above, indicate that I should consider whether the Applicant’s honesty, integrity and rectitude of character permit him to be safely accredited to the public. The licence in question is relevant: a firearms licence that is a privilege, not a right, and where public safety is a paramount consideration. I must be satisfied that the evidence indicates that the Applicant would have honesty, integrity and rectitude of character as a firearms licence holder ...

Mr Bowman’s circumstances

Mr Bowman is a fourth-generation farmer. He returned home in 1976 to help his parents run the family property, and he and his wife took over the farm in 1983. They subsequently purchased a second property in the district. While the properties have been formally handed over to Mr Bowman’s daughters, he continues to play an active role in the family business and works on the properties with his daughters.

Mr Bowman has held a firearms licence since 1996. No action has been taken against him previously in relation to his licence – it has never been suspended or revoked, and he has never been issued any warnings regarding his conduct in relation to his licence or use of firearms. Mr Bowman has a thorough understanding of his obligations as the

holder of a firearms licence. He stores his firearms in accordance with the legal requirements, and this has been confirmed by local police officers who have inspected his storage arrangements on several occasions (including, presumably, when they were seized).

Mr Bowman requires a firearms licence for the control of pests on his properties, particularly wild pigs, dogs, and foxes, which are out of control on the properties and cause damage to livestock (sheep and cattle) and crops. He is also, from time to time, required to euthanise such livestock.

Mr Bowman has never used or stored his firearms in a manner that was dangerous to other people around him or to the general public. He has no charges or convictions for any matters of violence, nor has he ever been subject to any Apprehensive Violence Orders. In relation to the alleged threat which resulted in the suspension of his licence, we note that no charges or AVO applications have been filed against Mr Bowman.

Mr Bowman is an active member of his community and is held in high regard by the people around him. His contributions to the community include the following:

- Served as a Councillor on Coolah Shire Council from 1999 to 2004.
- Member of the Dunedoo Bushfire Brigade from 1976 to date, including as Captain from 1988 to 1997 and again from 2021 to 2023.
- Committee member of the Dunedoo Show Society from 1976 to 2012, including serving as Vice President from 1991 to 1997, and President from 1997 to 1999. He was made a Life Member in 2003, and has served as a Patron since 2023.

Enclosed are references of two fellow community members who have known our client personally and professionally for 65 and 24 years respectively.

Mr Bowman did not attempt to conceal the words he concedes he said to Mr Berge on 5 June 2024. Immediately following the conversation, Mr Bowman told others present at the end of the meeting what he said. He has no history of violence or threats, and he has acted honestly and transparently in his dealings with NSW Police. He cooperated fully with Constable Hadlow when he attended to service the Notice and seize Mr Bowman's firearms.

It is submitted that the Commissioner can be satisfied that Mr Bowman is a fit and proper person to hold a firearms licence. He has a long and well-founded reputation for honesty and integrity, and has demonstrated that he possesses the knowledge and ability to safely carry out the rights and obligations afforded to him by a firearms licence.

We request that Mr Bowman's suspension be lifted and his firearms returned to him at the earliest opportunity.

Please contact us should you require any further information regarding this matter.

Yours ...

15/06/2024 – submission to NSW Department of Planning in response to Sandy Creek Solar Farm Environmental Impact Statement

Sandy Creek Solar Farm	SUB-72025208	15/06/2024	No	Object
Attachments				
Comment / Message				
I am not against renewable energy as I have two properties (Farms 5000 hectares) powered totally by solar with battery storage . What I am against is agricultural land that has produced food and fibre for Australia been RAPED by the Government to generate unreliable power for people along the coast when they will not join in and do like wise. This area was RADED not many years ago by the Government for Cobbora Coal , now here we go again!! For many years I drove judges around this area judging crops for Dunedoo show competition with prize winning . In heavy rain a lot water floods down Sandy Creek then to Dubbo and on to the marshes, it will be worse with extra water shed off the panels, what about pollution? Other problems ,fire fighting lack of RFS members, extra traffic on the roads especially the Golden Highway along the Main Street in Dunedoo and to Newcastle which is our export route from western NSW. Power should be generated where it is used not miles away to save building miles of massive power lines. It's a pity our leaders don't realise what damage the roll out to renewable energy is going to do to the environment with trees been removed and all the extra fossil fuel used in the development. To conclude the damage it is doing to families, friends and the mental health to all in the district. THIS WILL KILL DUNEDOO, it relies on the rural industry. WHY IS IT CALLED RENEWABLE ENERGY BECAUSE IT WILL HAVE BE RENEWED BY 2050!!!				

29/08/2024 – Independent Planning Commission for Spicers Creek Wind Farm in Dunedoo Jubilee Hall - 5 hours duration

26/09/2024 – submission to NSW Department of Planning in response to Beryl Battery Energy Storage System EIS

Beryl Battery Energy Storage System	SUB-76259497	26/09/2024	No	Object
Attachments				
Comment / Message				
I am objecting this project for several reasons: Too close to several small holding residences and the township of Gulgong. Being to the west of the township if a fire starts the toxic fumes from the batteries could affect Gulgong and these fires are hard to extinguish. The noise from the inverters could affect the 16 residences that are within 1km of the project. The renewables are not going to solve the power situation and the battery storage should be on the coast where the power is used. The screening will not be effective till after the end of the life of the project as trees take many years to grow and need maintenance and care during their early life.				

14/12/2024 – Dunedoo Markets

- EnergyCo stand and Transport NSW for Port to REZ present
- Had a discussion with both parties talking about the proposed 9000+ oversized loads from the port to this REZ along the Golden Highway and the concerns of whether the highway will handle this load of traffic in a safe manner

Thank you for taking the time to review this submission. In summary, I would like to highlight the significant strain, both mental and emotional, that my family and I, along with the broader community within the Renewable Energy Zone, have endured over the past three years. The ongoing disregard from government agencies and renewable energy developers has only exacerbated this strain, as they have continued with project planning and development despite our mounting concerns. There has been little to no consideration given to the environmental impact or the land use within the area.

The lack of transparency surrounding these projects has left landholders and community members feeling blindsided by actions taken without adequate consultation. While the REZ's development appears to be well supported by those benefiting financially, the broader community continues to bear the negative consequences without fair compensation.

As I approach retirement, I should not be subjected to these pressures. The countless hours I have spent reviewing Environmental Impact Statements, drafting letters and engaging in discussions about these renewable energy initiatives have gone without any form of financial compensation. I am left questioning: who is bearing the costs of these efforts?

Regards,

David Bowman