

**Submission  
No 31**

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

**Organisation:** Lithgow Environment Group Inc

**Date Received:** 30 January 2025

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# Lithgow Environment Group Inc.

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*Preserving the Balance of Nature*

To  
Upper House inquiry into  
The Impact of Renewable Energy Zones (REZ)

Lithgow, 30 January 2025

While Lithgow lies just outside the Central West Orana REZ, Lithgow can be the link between that REZ and Sydney. We express our full support for the roll out of renewable energy in NSW.

With the closure of coal fired power stations and the decline in production from the local coal mines Lithgow is a 'Transition Town'. Lithgow Council has just developed the Lithgow Emerging Economies Project emphasizing renewable energy and tourism. The REZ will provide Lithgow with opportunities to provide skills manpower and infrastructure, supporting the transition to a new economy.

While there is opposition from some landholders who feel their agricultural business and land values will be negatively affected by the construction of renewable energy infrastructure on their land, there are others who see the opportunity to diversify their income.

The damaging effects of climate change affect us all and are already taking a toll on many in our community including those farming the land. Implementation of renewable energy projects is urgent and that is why we fully support Renewable Energy Zones and endorse the detailed submission of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW.

However, where renewable generation and infrastructure is planned, it is critical to negotiate and consult with local communities so that their concerns can be addressed and they can be involved in the whole process.

Thank you  
Thomas Ebersoll  
Secretary LEG