

**Submission  
No 61**

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

**Organisation:** Yass Landscape Guardians Inc

**Date Received:** 28 January 2025

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The Hon Mark Banasiak.MLC  
Parliament House,  
Macquarie Street, SYDNEY . NSW 2000

“Kia-Ora”

24<sup>th</sup> January 2025

NSW UPPER HOUSE INQUIRY

To the Chair and Members of the Legislative Council Inquiry into the impact of Renewable Energy Zones on Rural and Regional Communities and Industries in New South Wales.

Additionally, the committee intends to investigate other aspects of large scale renewable projects, including whether there are suitable alternatives to traditional renewable energy sources.

Thank you for opportunity to forward a Submission:

Unfortunately, it is not only the Federal Labor, Green and Teals supporting this unattainable ‘renewable’ energy; it is the State Governments---in NSW it is the DPIE Bureaucracy enforcing and recommending the IPC approve such projects on the most inappropriate sites.

Wherever a large industrial Wind/Solar project is proposed there is a Community uprising indicating the hostility, anguish and dismay of regional landowners, formerly close friendly communities are divided. Allowing developers to prospect sites for projects, creeping around the district privately ‘bribing’ often absentee landowners before neighbour landowners are aware their land value and lifestyle is negatively affected

The construction of such large industrial unreliable environmentally destructive Wind and Solar projects so far from the Eastern seaboard is clearly problematic, such projects are developed/approved without any connection to the Grid, therefore creating a criss- cross of transmission lines to be constructed further impacting the rural communities with a serious bio security concern

The detrimental impact on the environment of such huge industrial turbines on the pristine fragile ridge lines is catastrophic, the destruction of hollow bearing trees, native habitat, soil erosion and the subsequent huge transmission lines to transmit the intermittent power to the Grid across the landscape is irreversible and totally unacceptable

The uprising from landowners impacted by the huge 500kv Hume Link crossing their land and leaving their farming operation unviable. It is ‘un Australian’ for impacted landowners to have to raise money to ‘get an opinion’ to see if their case has merit to proceed; they then need to raise a larger amount of money to proceed with the Court.

The Yass Landscape Guardians (a small group) attempted to defend our properties from the impact of the Coppabella Wind Farm project in 2018 although the initial process cost approx \$28, 000-- the risk of continuing --v--a large foreign Chinese Goldwind Company was too risky to proceed.

The marginal Yass Wind Farm was first proposed in 2008, recommended for refusal in 2015; in 2016 the incoming NSW Planning Minister Rob Stokes 'set a precedent and 'split' the project' recommending the Coppabella portion be approved---the most fragile steep unique precinct, both the OE&H and the AEIC agreed the South Precinct should be removed from the project as the most fragile of the entire project ( completely ignored by DPE and IPC) There are eleven hosts on the Coppabella project with only two living at their Electoral address the other 9 are absentee landowners!! However there are Generational farmers adjoining and impacted by this project; there must be a Legislated DECOMMISSIONING Legal document signed by the Host and granted to any adjoining landowner to be held with their own Solicitor/Legal firm ---this Legal document must remain legally binding to all subsequent owners of the Host property and enforced by any new owners of the adjoining properties. All Legal preparation of such documents must be Government funded

The DPE do NOT enforce their own LAPSE dates—the Coppabella project was approved March 2016---lapse date 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021—extended for two more years 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023—without any inspection the DPE confirmed PROJECT PERMITTED TO COMMENCE Now 2025 the project has not COMMENCED. The DPE ignore the AEIC report (Page 58) – Project is presumably required to show commencement of works prior to extending a planning project, if such works are genuine, then the project should be well completed before the extension or renewal period expires---therefore a maximum of 1 only renewal period should be permitted.

In July 2024 this Coppabella Goldwind project were granted a NSW LTESA and in December 2024 the Project Manager explained Goldwind were looking for an 'INVESTOR' –as has been obvious for years this is NOT a viable project

However, the Yass Valley Council district, which is not in a REZ has now been impacted with the proposal of another Squadron Energy Wind Farm project. This is a huge project with 99 x 280-290mts turbines, the cumulative impact by this industrial project within a few kms of the 2016 approved (not commenced Goldwind Coppabella project) requires immediate response and refusal. This project is in a high bush fire area. Another Squadron Energy project has been proposed in the village of Bowning area , there would be five large wind projects (two already operating) and a large Solar farm on the boundary of the Yass township, plus two other Solar farms closer to the ACT.

We have continually requested a MORATORIUM ; it appears the State Government DPE and IPC can approve such projects without any responsibility, however no Department not even the Premier can call for a MORATORIUM.

With respect, I ask this Committee to consider the impact of this industrialization of our pristine rural landscape.

Thank you

Noeleen Hazell-----Chair—Yass Landscape Guardians