

**Submission  
No 64**

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

**Name:** Charles Abela  
**Date Received:** 30 January 2025

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Dear Director Committees

Could you please onforward the following submission to appropriate recipients.

Thank you

Charles Abela

The following was copied from the [Illawarra REZ fact sheet](https://www.energyco.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-01/ilw-rez-fact-sheet-energising-illawarra.pdf)  
(<https://www.energyco.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-01/ilw-rez-fact-sheet-energising-illawarra.pdf>)

### **Declaration**

The Illawarra REZ was formally declared by the Minister for Energy under section 19(1) of the [Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020](#) (the Act) and published in the NSW Gazette on 27 February 2023.

The draft exhibition was held between 23 December 2022 and 6 February 2023.

The above consultation was unsatisfactory because:

- It was short in comparison to other consultation times for major developments.
- It was carried out over the Christmas “break” when people or otherwise occupied with Christmas and New Year activities and when they are away on holidays. In the holiday period people do not have the priority time, or mindset to engage in effective consultation.
- Neither I nor any neighbours had any idea about an REZ being considered for the Illawarra or any other region. I do not recall any effective public notification of an impending REZ nor of any consultation period.
- The consideration of submissions was hastily done.
- I can only come to the conclusion that the NSW Government wanted as few submissions as possible and did not want to know of or have on hand a body of opinion and fact adverse to its predetermined intentions.
- The whole gamut of REZ and offshore wind turbines first came to my realisation when I attended an offshore information session conducted by BlueFloat Energy 15 June 2023 which was referred to on informal social media rather than by any advertisement.
- I consider the standard and effectiveness even intent of the above process of public consultation as appalling.
- Generally I am not confident that specific local issues have been adequately taken into consideration.

I would have liked to put forward the following submission:

It is respectfully submitted that in relation to the Illawarra coastline, offshore wind turbines will cause local adverse climate change causing a drastic adverse impact on public infrastructure, private properties and safety of residents. This is so because:

- The Illawarra escarpment is high, steep and close to the sea which makes it quite different climatically to other areas. The soil between the escarpment and the sea is substantially clay talus which is very susceptible to softening even fluidising by heavy and or prolonged rainfall events. This leads to ongoing slope creep and land slips.
- There is much public infrastructure and many houses between the escarpment and the coastline.
- The instability of the landmass is evidenced by the constant slope stabilisation works and road repairs being undertaken by Wollongong Council.
- Land stability contours published by Wollongong Council also confirm the susceptibility and indicate areas that may slip without prior indication ie being a serious safety hazard. As an example these safety contours run to the back door of the Scarborough Hotel and even under the lounge room of the adjoining house.
- The coastal cemetery at Scarborough/Wombarra is constantly on the move towards the shoreline to the extent of graves falling over the edge.
- The Bulli pass is often closed due to landslides.

Slope creep and land slips ARE CAUSED BY HEAVY OR PROLONGED RAINFALL EVENTS WHICH ALREADY occur more frequently and intensely in the Illawarra area than in other shorelines.

- This is due to the proximity of the escarpment to the sea, the sea being the source of the water vapour from which clouds form.
- Offshore wind turbines necessarily take out immense amounts of energy from the wind. This leads to less wind and general air movement which causes more concentrated water vapour in the air over the sea from which clouds form. The slower and less energetic wind reaching the coastline would result in clouds lingering below the escarpment tops and being pushed inland even more slowly than at present. The slower and less energetic wind would also allow more precipitation and lead to less cloud dissipation and dispersal. This will exacerbate the already highly damaging rainfall east of the escarpment.
- This will lead to more slope creep, land slips, increased damage to infrastructure and properties and increased risk to the safety of people.
- The sea along the Illawarra escarpment, especially where the escarpment is virtually on the coastline such as from Otford to Thirroul, is totally unsuitable for offshore wind turbines.

End of submission.

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