

**Submission  
No 71**

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

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My reason for writing this submission is as follows.

I had a farm at Bannister in the Upper Lachlan Shire. When I first heard that wind turbines might be erected in the area I had little concern or knowledge of the impacts. My experience of wind turbines was limited to Crookwell<sup>1</sup>, a toy in today's terms. This changed due to a number of factors including their physical size, the ineptitude of the NSW Planning Department and the total disregard the developer displayed in their dealings with the planning department and the local population.

My farm had not been accessed by the Land and Environment Court. Despite the noise assessment by Marshall Day stating there would be no impact on my property Goldwind the developer tried to get a "noise easement" over my property for an annual payment. I refused. The property was then listed for sale. After approx. 4 months there had not been one offer. Goldwind then submitted a bid using an undisclosed buyer. Goldwind ultimately became the owner and proceeded to install some 40,000 solar panels. It is now the Gullen Range Solar Farm.

From this process I became aware of the following:

The incompetence of the NSW Planning Department .

The overreaching efforts by Governments and their departments to facilitate the renewable energy industry.

The laughable box ticking exercise know as "communicating with the locals"

The uneven leverage the developer has over the community, particularly dividing locals and teasing local authorities with hand outs ultimately paid for by electricity users.

The totally unscientific approach to generating cheap reliable energy.

Why I oppose any form of renewable energy zones.

The visual destruction of the natural landscape.

The destruction of the environment -removal of trees and habitat - killing of native birds particularly raptors and bats.

The installation of massive steel and concrete footings none of which will ever be removed, resulting in changes to the local hydrology particularly considering most are erected on hill tops with a network of roads.

A catalyst for division in local communities.

Fighting grass and bush fires becomes far more difficult.

The increase in transmission infrastructure. Initial cost, cost to maintain, unnecessary destruction of the natural environment, visual impairment on the landscape and the added cause of bush fires.

Renewable energy is both low density and intermittent requiring vast amounts of land.

The life of renewable energy infrastructure by comparison to base load is short.

The materials required to build renewables are often toxic and energy intensive.

Renewable energy companies are not required to lodge a bond for the removal of the infrastructure.

The majority of solar panels and wind turbines are made in China using coal fired power.

The absolutely unscientific view that that batteries will be able to run cities the size of Sydney or Melbourne. Physics is one thing ideology is another.

Renewables require back up from base load power adding to the cost.

Renewables are limited in their ability to balance and synchronize the electricity system.

One only has to compare France to Germany to see the unmitigated failure of renewables. The German economy is on it's knees due to it's "Energiewende" policy. Energy in Germany is obtained from fossil fuels accounting for 77.6% of total energy consumption in 2023.

The same political push to renewables that occurred in Germany is happening here in Australia.

Renewables are a lifeline for fossil fuels.

The Levelised Cost of Electricity - LCOE -. The report by the CSIRO stating that the LCOE for renewables is cheaper than other sources is misleading. The report only deals with the cost to produce electricity, not to supply it to the end user. That is it does not take into account the cost of transmission, storage or network charges in stabilizing the grid.

Above are just some of the reasons why renewables will not succeed.

Most importantly I know what it does to communities and in particular to the farmers and people who live on the land and who will have to deal with these massive developments, while unaffected people in far away places vote for these developments that is until they realise, like the Germans they are low density producers of intermittent energy, expensive and destructive of the natural environment.