

**Submission
No 73**

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

Name: Melissa and Leo Collins

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Inquiry into the Impact of Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) on rural and regional communities and industries in New South Wales. It is our strongest desire that the overhead powerlines do not come impact our family or farm assets. Careful consideration should be given to the constructing of overhead transmission lines in the wake of the wildfires in L.A. It is not logical to construct overhead transmission lines through Durridgerie State Forest when underground transmission lines are a proven long-term solution in preventing bushfires. In relation to the L.A. fires investigation, The Los Angeles Times (12 January 2025) quotes Dean Florez, a member of the California Air Resources Board and former state senator, saying: • “The past has taught us that utility equipment is a leading cause of California’s deadliest wildfires. This historical pattern cannot be ignored when discussing preventive measures. The real issue here isn’t just how these fires might have started, but how preventable they might have been.” • “Yes, undergrounding is expensive at \$3 [million to] \$4 million per mile, but it pales in comparison to the catastrophic costs of wildfires like those devastating Los Angeles County, which can easily exceed \$500 billion in damages.” Below is map from the Energy Co website showing proposed overhead transmission lines running through Durridgerie State Forest. Combining overhead transmission lines with protected and preserved forest heavily vegetated with native plants and a dry climatic ecosystem is a reckless arrangement that is short-sighted, careless and ill-advised that puts many Australians in a dangerous and life-threatening position.