

**Submission
No 90**

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

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RECKLESS RENEWABLES

We are a farming community situated east of Dunedoo on the Golden Highway and within 5 kms of proposed works to do with the Birriwa Solar Farm.

We will be visually impacted by this eyesore and have not even been consulted.

The History of the Land surrounding our property is of a close knit community with up to 6 generations having looked after the land, making a living and producing food and fibre for our city counterparts who seem to not even know what is happening out here. Family farms are renowned for being the most efficient farmers. It is wonderful black soil country, perfect for the growing of all types of crops - wheat, oats, barley, canola, sorghum, cotton, lucerne for hay and many natural grasses. It is not at all suitable for solar "factories" or wind turbines 250m tall.

For instance, when the country is wet it is untrafficable. When big rains occur the Talbragar River fills from White and Huxley Creeks and floods over properties in the vicinity. This is not the place for solar panels. Black soil sinks. Hail damaged solar panels would leak chemicals onto the soils which in turn would end up in the river and as far as the Murray River Basin. Livestock, grains and fibre could end up with chemical residue and unsaleable.

We have 3 generations currently living on Shingle Hut and what happens for our children and grandchildren in 20 years or when the panels break down or are obsolete? Too late to say "oh dear solar and turbines were not such a good idea" when the landscape is ruined.

These areas of Wind Turbines & Solar Panels are FACTORIES and not very good ones at that. They will not produce the amount of power required for base load to power factories and heavy duty organisations such as steelworks. They do not produce when the wind is not blowing and the sun is not shining. We notice turbines not working in many areas - either too much wind or the grid is full!!!

The proponents of the numerous turbine projects have no idea of life in the rural districts of every one of our states that is affected.

The proponents are politicians, bureaucrats and overseas companies sitting in their offices in our Federal & State Capitals who have never experienced rural life for a living and are absolutely blinkered with the narrow vision that renewables are the only goal they must achieve in the immediate future to save our planet.

Climate change and renewables have got the city people mesmerised. They believe everything they are told and many have never set foot out of their cities to see what actually happens in our rural areas. Do they think farming country is suitable for turbines. They should come and have a look.

The logistics of transporting turbine parts on the Golden Highway is incomprehensible. The highway is not adequate for the current traffic, let alone huge masses that will hold up traffic and block the flow of necessities like fuel going to the West of the State and cartage of livestock, grain and perishables to markets in the East. Accidents have already occurred with the transport of solar panels on this highway.

What amounts of concrete need to be made for the base of a turbine? Thousands of tons. How much energy is used to produce this concrete? Is this really "GREEN/RENEWABLE". I don't think so.

Regarding the close solar factory at Birriwa - tons of waste will be produced in this production ie. workers camp. Where will it go?

Workers' Camp - not a pleasant idea in the rural scene - producing more waste, need for water. Not being of any benefit to the townships nearby. Strangers coming as workers, possible crime, drugs etc. near farming families.

We are being bombarded daily with so many proposals all over the State of NSW and other states in the name of Renewable Energy. "Renewables" (a new buzzword for Governments), is all the Ministers for Planning, Energy and others involved can think of and we, the residents who make a living from the land producing food and fibre do not have the time to be reading and fighting all these ludicrous proposals.

We farming families do not have the time when running a business (or the resources such as are employed by the proponents writing thousands of pages of meaningless "gumph") to digest every section of it.

Why should we be expected and in some cases forced (with compulsory acquisitions) to ruin our land in making power for cities. It's about time the cities took responsibility for their own production of power by mandatory installing of solar panels on EVERY ROOF IN THE CITY. IT SHOULD BE MANDATORY FOR EVERY NEW HOUSE TO HAVE SOLAR PANELS AND A BATTERY HUB IN THE SUBURBS.

There are so many rules and regulations now in building a house with regards to energy saving, with windows facing north, insulation, double glazing etc. SO WHY NOT SOLAR PANELS ON EVERY ROOF IN THE CITIES? We believe that Clover Moore was noted as saying that people in the Eastern Suburbs of her Electorate would not want unsightly panels on their roofs. It might affect their house values!!!!

With the money Mr Bowen expects to be spent on building these Turbine & Solar Factories and the rumoured ridiculous amount of money that the hosts will receive annually, the Government could subsidise solar panels on every house in Australia.

We can't get Doctors, Nurses and Teachers in country areas and money should be directed at that instead of expensive, unworkable renewables.

It is causing mental stress for landholders fighting this imposition on private land and mental stress for anyone who can see and hear these monstrosities.

It is as big a fiasco as "THE VOICE". Will the Government never learn from the people they are meant to represent instead of bulldozing people. This is DICTATORSHIP WHEN IT COMES TO RENEWABLES.

NSW Planning Dept maintain environmental benefits - look at the entire process of building these wind and solar factories - mining the resources, transporting parts and transmission lines and all the way to decommissioning. There are no environmental benefits when hectares of trees are being demolished to make way for turbines, access roads and transmission lines.

Community consultation meetings in towns are a joke.

The companies and Energy Co send out young people who are citified and can't answer questions from the locals. The supposedly listen to our complaints and then go away and do what they wanted in the first place. We are not consulted at all.

We haven't had anyone come and consult with us about visual impact.

We can cope with fire, floods and drought but not the ignorant people producing this made-made rubbish called renewable energy.

We are not against renewable - we look after ourselves, off the grid, why can't city people do the same.

Energy Co is working with overseas companies who are only interested in fleecing this country. Its all about MONEY.

Landscapes will never be the same.

Electricity will be unreliable and more expensive and

none of the above will alter the Climate.

Public protests are not our thing, but we farmers have been to Martin Place and Canberra for demonstrations of our disgust at the way we are being treated.

I will have to finish here as there is a storm threatening and the power will go off & I will lose all the above hard work.

Brian Bowman