

**Submission
No 98**

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

Name: Mrs Rosemary Miller

Date Received: 30 January 2025

The Chair

Mr Mark Banasiak

Re: Impact of Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) on rural and regional communities

And industries in New South Wales

Dear Chair Banasiak

I am writing this submission to express, not only my total opposition to Renewable Energy Zones but to also list a number of my concerns.

My first and foremost concern are the huge subsidies which the government is handing out to overseas companies to invest in building green renewables within these zones and then to continue paying them even if the wind and/or solar farm is not producing a continuous supply of electricity. To me it is disgraceful that the government allows these overseas companies to take bucketloads of money, hard earned taxpayers money, out of the country while local consumers are forced to pay ever increasing electricity bills. The following are my other concerns:

1. The destruction and permanent loss of bush, hollow bearing trees and grasslands that are vital habitat for our already endangered flora and fauna to make way for wind and solar on land. Also offshore turbines will not only be a threat to sea life and the health of our seas but will act as a threat to the local fishing industry while both on and off shore their noise, vibrations and ugly visual impact must be considered especially in regard to our tourist industry.
2. The added loss of productive farmland essential for the production of food and fibre for local and overseas markets. Our agricultural industry plays a very important part of our economy and export trade.
3. There have already been proven cases of wind turbine blades shedding pieces of toxic fibre glass over pasture and cropping land along with the odd turbine catching on fire or throwing a blade. Toxic chemicals from solar farms and their footings are also leaching into surrounding soil and groundwater. Incidentally sheep are no longer allowed to graze within a solar farm because it has been discovered that they are inclined to chew the wires thus causing a bushfire risk.
4. The already recorded high death rate of birds, bats and insects including bees caused by wind turbine blades. It is not a well known fact but people and sniffer dogs are employed by proponent companies to search out and bury dead birds. Obviously to hide evidence they don't want made public
5. The lack of confirmation that wind turbines or ground solar panels will be replaced or decommissioned at the end of their relatively short productive life. This could lead to the strong possibility of wind and solar farms being left to disintegrate again polluting the soil and ground water with toxic materials.

6. Add to the mix is the need to transport this “green” renewable energy to the cities via 75 to 80m. tall 500kV above ground transmission lines. These also present their own set of issues:
- a) The high risk of starting bushfires should high winds cause a conductor to flashover or fall to the ground and the severe restrictions and danger of combating such fires placed on both ground fire crews and water bombing aircraft due to thick smoke.
 - b) The required clearing of a 70m. wide easement, large pylon and crane pads bringing about the loss of more trees and productive agricultural land.
 - c) The restriction of farming operations such as aerial weed spraying, fertiliser spreading, sowing and harvest of crops.
 - d) The possible bad effects of the high electro magnetic field on humans, livestock and wildlife. It has been noted that a fence or stockyards are electrified if such a transmission line is overhead.
 - e) The great deal of unwarranted anxiety and stress being forced on affected landholders brought about by the lack of open and clear consultation and opportunities for negotiation with proponent companies who then hit them with compulsory land acquisition if they don't comply. Yes, compensation is offered but a totally inadequate amount spread over 20 years when the loss of production and income, disruption to farm operations and property value are taken into consideration.

The fact that Australia, rich in coal and gas, is still blindly blundering along this green renewable path is a joke when overseas it has been recognised for some years now that a total reliance on wind and solar power alone is impossible.

So in conclusion I say forget the REZ's – they are nothing but a destructive waste of time and money and of no benefit whatsoever to Australia.

Yours sincerely

Rosemary Miller

