

**Submission  
No 112**

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

**Name:** Mr Peter Dawson

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I own a small rural lifestyle farm block in the Salisbury Plains area of Uralla (137ha in the New England REZ). I graze sheep and cattle on this farm block. I also own a residential home in Uralla but my long-term plan is to build a 'green' home on my farm block and after a long submission process, Uralla Council has finally granted me a dwelling entitlement.

Of course, these plans are now redundant due to the ever-increasing overdevelopment of renewable projects in my immediate area (large solar and wind developments and battery storage). If this is not bad enough, my small farm block is also fully in ENCO's transmission line investigation area. Consequently, after many years of investing in the pristine New England area, I am faced with a large loss of both visual amenity and capital value due to these huge overdeveloped industrial projects.

I have attended many community meetings organised by the renewable developers and I have attended many meetings organised by ENCO. On each and every occasion I have been left feeling despondent due to the lack of care for the long term future of the local community and the bloody minded approach of both the renewable developers and ENCO. The overwhelming takeaway from each interaction is that (and I provide a quote from an ENCO representative during discussions with me) - "these are State Significant projects and they are going to happen so get used to it". So much for balanced and fair consultation !!!

In addition to the above, and in terms of further detail, my concerns for the Salisbury Plains farming area where my farm block is located are as follows:

- huge loss of visual amenity due to overdevelopment of renewable projects, including huge transmission towers.
- the consequent loss of capital value, particularly with my lifestyle farm block, noting that there are many similar lifestyle blocks in the Salisbury Plains area. To make matters worse, no consideration is given to loss of capital value in the investigation process. This is blatant 'theft'.
- the Salisbury Plains area forms the catchment to the Macleay River at Kempsey on the mid north coast. This presents high risk for contamination.
- the Salisbury Plains area contains many underground aquifers which provide water for stock and homes. This also is high risk when major construction starts, particularly the risks that wind and transmission towers present due to the depth of foundations.
- the Salisbury Plains area is pristine farming and grazing land which has implications for future food security issues. It's mindless to think that such a pristine environment will be changed to an industrial landscape with the loss of agricultural capacity.

Finally, my overwhelming sense is that despite what we say, and despite what objections we raise, it's clear that all investigations are simply 'box ticking' with the stated aim of pushing these projects through. Very disappointing and very unsatisfactory for a State Government that is supposed to represent the interests of all in a balanced and unbiased way.