

Supplementary
Submission
No 8a

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

Organisation: Dungog Shire Council

Date Received: 14 January 2025



Dungog Shire Council
PO Box 95
DUNGOG NSW 2420
T: (02) 4995 7777 F: (02) 4995 7750
E: shirecouncil@dungog.nsw.gov.au
W: dungog.nsw.gov.au
ABN 62 610 350 056

14 January 2025

Ref: 25/767

Alex Stedmen
The Director Committees
Portfolio Committee No. 4
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney
NSW 2000

Email: portfoliocommittee4@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Stedmen

Re: Representation of Dungog Shire in Renewable Energy Zone Deliberations

This letter serves as supplementary correspondence to Dungog Shire Council's formal submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry.

Dungog Shire Council wishes to express concern regarding the exclusion of our community's voice from inter-governmental discussions on the Renewable Energy Zone (REZ). Despite being included in the Hunter-Central Coast REZ overlay, Dungog Shire Council was not invited to a critical meeting convened in Singleton last year to discuss the REZ.

This omission underscores a broader failure to uphold EnergyCo's principles of meaningful engagement and inclusivity, which are foundational to fostering trust and effective collaboration. Such exclusion also risks perpetuating critical oversights regarding local priorities and challenges.

A particularly pressing issue is the lack of a state road classification within Dungog Shire. As the sole council in New South Wales without a state road designation, we face unique and acute challenges in infrastructure development and funding. Additionally, the economic and housing ramifications of the REZ, including workforce fluctuations and their effects on local housing demand, remain poorly understood. Addressing these issues is imperative to ensure that the REZ's benefits are equitably distributed and that undue burdens are not placed on our community.

To rectify these deficiencies and promote equitable outcomes, we call for robust and respectful consultation with Dungog Shire Council to develop a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities presented by the Hunter-Central Coast REZ. Such engagement is essential to fostering collaborative governance and informed decision-making that align with the current and future needs of our community.

In this context, Dungog Shire Council respectfully seeks the Committee's assistance in the following areas:

- Ensuring Council receives formal invitations and notifications for all future meetings and updates concerning the Hunter-Central Coast REZ.
- Advocating for the inclusion of Dungog Shire Council in ongoing dialogues related to the REZ.
- Providing detailed updates on the outcomes of the Inquiry into the impact of Renewable Energy Zones on rural and regional communities and industries.

Together with our formal submission, this letter underscores key concerns that demand immediate attention. We trust the Committee will recognize the importance of these issues and lend support to ensuring the Dungog community's adequate representation in all relevant deliberations regarding the REZ.

Should you have any further questions regarding this matter, please contact Trevor Ryan, Director Planning and Environment on .

Yours faithfully

Shaun Chandler
Acting General Manager