



Inquiry into the impact of Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) on rural and regional communities and industries in New South Wales

TERMS OF REFERENCE

That Portfolio Committee No. 4 - Regional NSW inquire into and report on the impact of Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) on rural and regional communities and industries in New South Wales, and in particular:

- (a) current and projected socioeconomic, cultural, agricultural and environmental impacts of projects within renewable energy zones in New South Wales including the cumulative impacts
- (b) current and projected considerations needed with regards to fire risk, management and containment and potential implications on insurance for land holders and/or project proponents in and around Renewable Energy Zones
- (c) the historical, current and projected future financial costs associated with construction and maintenance of large scale projects within Renewable Energy Zones
- (d) proposed compensation to regional New South Wales residents impacted by Renewable Energy Zone transmission lines:
 - (i) adequacy of compensation currently being offered for hosting transmission lines
 - (ii) adequacy of the shared benefits being offered to neighbours of large scale renewable projects
 - (iii) financial impact of compensation on the state's economy
 - (iv) tax implications resulting from compensation received by impacted residents
- (e) adequacy, and management of voluntary planning agreements and payments made to the LGAs impacted by Renewable Energy Zones
- (f) current and projected supply and demand levels of manufactured products, raw materials, and human resources required for completion of Renewable Energy Zones and their source
- (g) projected impact on visitation to regional areas with renewable energy zones resulting from changes to land use
- (h) suitable alternatives to traditional renewable energy sources such as large-scale wind and solar

- (i) adequacy of community consultation and engagement in the development of Renewable Energy Zones, and associated projects
- (j) how decommissioning bonds are currently managed and should be managed as part of large scale renewable projects
- (k) the role and responsibility of the Net Zero Commission and Commissioner in addressing matters set out above, and
- (l) any other related matters.

The terms of reference for the inquiry were self-referred by the committee on 30 July 2024.

Committee membership

Hon Mark Banasiak MLC	Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party	<i>Chair</i>
Hon Emma Hurst MLC	Animal Justice Party	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
Ms Abigail Boyd MLC*	The Greens	
Hon Greg Donnelly MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Hon Aileen MacDonald MLC*	Liberal Party	
Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC	The Nationals	
Hon Cameron Murphy MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Hon Peter Primrose MLC	Australian Labor Party	

* Ms Abigail Boyd MLC is a participating member from 5 August 2024 for the duration of the inquiry.

* The Hon Scott Barrett MLC replaced the Hon Nichole Overall MLC as a substantive member of the committee from 5 February 2026.

* The Hon Aileen MacDonald MLC substituted for the Hon Scott Barrett MLC from 6 February 2026 for the duration of the inquiry.