

INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONES (REZ) ON RURAL AND REGIONAL COMMUNITIES AND INDUSTRIES IN NSW.

Hearing 17 July 2025, supplementary questions from members to Mr Peter Dawson who is a property owner at Salisbury Plains (submission 112).

Question 1. I do feel my personal investment of time, money, and family connections centred on the Salisbury Plains area have been totally undermined. What began with a pristine high value agricultural life style block of 137 hectares (350 acres approx) has now been severely compromised in terms of my financial investment and my lifestyle connection to the land at Salisbury Plains. The development proposals planned for Salisbury Plains will totally ruin the visual amenity of the area and downgrade the capital value of the many lifestyle rural blocks in this area. The development proposals, including the proposed transmission towers, will also potentially compromise the environmental integrity of this critically important Macleay River Catchment area, noting that the associated major ground disturbances may also impact the viability of the many underground aquifers that property owners in this area rely on to run their farm businesses.

Question 2. No effort has been made to design infrastructure to better fit the unique local character and landscape of Salisbury Plains. In fact, its been quite the contrary given the 'push through at all costs' mindset of the developers and ENCO. Basically, the impression I get is that they simply don't care and it's just other project timeline they have to meet and then they 'walk away'. They don't regard landowners as customers (as they should) and their community and landowner consultation never extends to the next level, namely **community and landowner engagement**.

Question 3. Many in the area are very worried, particularly the visual amenity and land capital value downgrade aspects. This may very well lead to properties being listed for sale but the problem with that is the market for these once high value lifestyle blocks has already been tainted so property owners are despairing are their situation.

Question 4. No work has been done to date to assess the risks. I was invited by consultants from ACEN to provide input given my historical knowledge of water movements on the flood plain and Salisbury Creek but that invitation was withdrawn. I can only conclude that my historical knowledge was something they didn't want to hear given that it may compromise their project intentions. This is extremely unsatisfactory and borders on negligence at the expense of the environment and landowners.

Question 5. No, they are conspicuous by their absence and silence in addressing these important matters.

Question 6. No, I don't think coastal communities down steam are aware and, once again, this situation borders on negligence by developers and ENCO. I think this situation is extremely serious and is basically a pollution and contamination ticking time bomb problem into the future for communities further downstream.