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To: [Portfolio Committee 4](#)
Cc: [Paula Dell-McCumstie](#)
Subject: FW: Inquiry into the Impact of Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) on rural and regional communities and industries in New South Wales - AMEC post-hearing response
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[Information to send to Inquest.docx](#)

Hi,

Attached is our response to the questions on notice and a copy of our national report into land access and use, which is located on our website: [Coexistence: The Key to Unlocking Productivity - AMEC | Association of Mining and Exploration Companies](#)

We thank you for the opportunity to participate in the inquiry, and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions.

Kind regards,

Kerry

Kerry Atkins | Director – New South Wales



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1. Do other States require a bond from renewable energy companies?

As of October 2025, no state or territory in Australia has legislation that explicitly requires renewable energy companies to post a bond for ground damage during construction (www.farmernews.com.au).

- Planning approvals may require it: Local councils and state planning authorities often impose conditions on development approvals that include financial assurances. These can cover potential environmental damage—including ground disturbance—during construction.
- Landholder lease agreements: Many landholders, especially in NSW and Victoria, negotiate bonds or bank guarantees in lease contracts to cover risks like soil degradation, erosion, or contamination during construction.
- Federal proposal underway: The Requiring Energy Operators to Obtain Rehabilitation Bonds Bill 2024 was introduced to Parliament to mandate rehabilitation bonds for large-scale wind and solar projects, covering environmental restoration across the project lifecycle—including construction impacts. However, the bill lapsed in March 2025 and has not become law (<https://www.aph.gov.au/>).
- Rehabilitation bonds: These are increasingly used as a flexible alternative to bank guarantees. They're designed to fund "make good" obligations, including remediating land damaged during construction or operation (<https://4sightrisk.com.au/>).

Conclusion

While not legally required by any state, bonds for ground damage during construction are often expected or negotiated. If you're a landholder or developer, it's wise to include clear financial safeguards in your agreements.

2. Can the sterilisation of mineral deposits be quantified in terms of lost potential revenue to the State?

It's difficult to quantify precisely, as the potential for mineral deposits across New South Wales is immense. The map below (as of October 2025) highlights current exploration licences (blue polygons) and applications (pink polygons) throughout the state, with orange-shaded regions indicating Resource Exploration Zones (REZs). Major operations such as Newmont's Cadia, Evolution Mining's Northparkes, and Lake Cowal are located within the highly prospective Lachlan Fold Belt (as shown on the map). Collectively, these mines were the main contributors of \$194 million in royalties received by the NSW Government during the 2023–2024 financial year.

The map clearly shows the amount of exploration licences and applications in NSW which all have the potential for another world class mine if Explorers are allowed to look for them.

