

**Submission  
No 18**

**INQUIRY INTO FEASIBILITY OF UNDERGROUNDING  
THE TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE FOR  
RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS**

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I am sharing my submission to the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone Transmission Project to voice my concerns about the overhead powerlines that our district is being expected to host.

I strongly object to the transmission project and the associated projects that go with this. I object to our district being named the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone. There is nothing renewable about permanently clearing trees and vegetation, removing farmland from production, using up huge amounts of natural resources, and littering the landscape with solar panels and wind turbines that have a short life span and cannot be recycled. A more fitting name would be the Central West Orana Industrial Energy Zone. Or even better, scrap the whole proposal. Mass energy generation should be happening closer to where it is required. I also object to the name Wind Farm and Solar Farm, they are factories not farms. Let farmers be farmers and leave us be to produce food and fibre, not energy. The only reason this area has been chosen is because of our low population and there are less people to object. However, we still have a voice and we will make sure it is heard.

I have major concerns about the amount of water that is required during construction of these projects. The Talbragar River doesn't always have water in it and our underground water supply is an essential resource for existing residents, our livestock and for the irrigation of crops. We don't have any water to spare, especially during a drought.

We don't have the resources to deal with the amount of waste that will be generated from the construction projects and from the workers camps. The council can't be expected to take it all, where will it go?

An influx of thousands of people in the area is going to put a huge strain on our roads, health facilities, emergency services, policing/public safety and our quality of life.

It is already extremely difficult to find people to work in the agricultural industry. Having to compete against private investment companies and government salaries is going to make it even more difficult.

The cumulative impacts have been vastly underestimated. The current proposal is only Stage 1, what is it going to be like once we reach Stage 2 and Stage 3? We already have 17 proposed wind and solar projects in various stages of planning and development in our district. From the information available to me on the Planning Portal I have calculated that we will have up to 250 wind turbines visible from our property. We will have years of traffic disruption, construction noise, bushfire risks, biosecurity risks, an increase in mental health and stress related health problems, friends/fellow farmers will leave, properties will be devalued, productive farmland ruined, and there will be thousands of strangers living amongst us. Will we feel safe having so many strangers living near isolated properties?

The landholders that are expected to host the transmission infrastructure are under huge amounts of stress and have been burdened with copious amounts of paperwork. They should be highly compensated for what is being done to their properties.

In fact, we have all been burdened with copious amounts of paperwork. It is very time consuming trying to keep up with everything that is going on and sift through thousands of pages of reports. Plus, we have to wonder what is next? Will I soon receive a call and have transmission lines on my property? When/where will it end?

I am a 5th generation farmer in the Dunedoo district and I can't see the future is looking too bright for the 6th generation. I will leave the final word to them.

E, aged 10: All the energy stuff is silly. Why can't the solar panels be put on the roofs of houses and why can't you put the turbines in the old mines where is already the powerlines to transfer the energy to the city. If you want more food, I suggest you don't build the turbines, solar panels and powerlines on farmland.

A, aged 8: This nonsense is just silly. If you want food well do not do it. Do you want this place to look good? Yes? So don't do it. A lot of people do not like this.

I, aged 6: I don't like it.