

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

**To the Parliamentary committee into the Impact of Renewable Energy Zones (REZs)  
on rural and regional communities and industries in New South Wales**

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a resident of North Epping in NW Sydney. My spouse and I have been residents of our duplex townhouse since 2009. The townhouse equipped with a solar system, a battery, a heat pump hot water and air conditioning systems and we drive a small battery electric car which is charged by the solar system. The cook top is the only gas appliance, which runs off bottled gas. We would like to install an induction cooktop, but I have a pacemaker which could be adversely affected by the magnetic fields generated. I am a retired engineer and my spouse is a retired teacher.

You could surmise from the above that we have very little knowledge about the subject of this enquiry, apart from being advocates for renewable energy. However I am well informed about matters affecting nature by the several organisations I belong to, including the Nature Conservation Council, on this matter. I will not waste your time or mine repeating the facts as described in the numerous submissions you will get from experts in these matters, apart from the following terms of reference that are most relevant to my submission.

**(a) current and projected socioeconomic, cultural, agricultural and environmental impacts of projects within renewable energy zones in New South Wales including the cumulative impacts**

**Socio-economic impacts** will be positive for all residents of a REZ, both from provision of a regular income for hosting solar and wind systems, to employment opportunities building and operating these systems. Obviously, there will need to be extensive consultation with those affected, but no weight should be given to those objecting due to their belief in lies promoted by conspiracy theorists.

**Agricultural impacts** will generally be positive for farmers, for example by grazing sheep on land also used as a site for solar panels<sup>1</sup>. The sheep can shelter from the weather, wool quality is improved and the vegetation is kept under control, saving the solar farm the expense of mowing.

**Environmental impacts** will be positive, allowing the regeneration of native grasses at solar farms located on areas that have been decimated by historical farming practices.

**(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**

It has been reported that the NSW Department of Planning has concluded that renewable energy projects have no impact on the risk or impact of wild fires, and therefore should have no impact on the cost of insurance. This debunks yet another of the many myths that anti-renewable lobby promotes.

**(h) suitable alternatives to traditional renewable energy sources such as large-scale wind and solar**

The CSIRO and numerous other organisations with expertise in economics and environment, are unanimous in predicting dire consequences for the environment and humanity (including my children and grandchildren) if urgent action is not taken to reduce global warming. They are also unanimous in declaring renewable energy sources – solar, wind and storage – are the cheapest and

<sup>1</sup> <https://reneweconomy.com.au/solar-shepherds-make-big-money-grazing-sheep-on-solar-farms-and-it-benefits-everyone-involved/>

quickest option to any chance of achieving this goal<sup>2</sup>. Nuclear is obviously a fantasy due to the inestimable cost of construction, waste disposal, decommissioning and the cost of the power produced. Renewables are the only practical solution, given that even if the nuclear proponents optimistic predictions are correct, the first nuclear power will not be available until about the same time as the last coal powered generator has been retired.

In conclusion, I would like to suggest that when land owners who object on aesthetic grounds to the appearance of solar, wind and transmission structures required by renewable energy projects, they should be requested to reflect on the appearance of their property that is a result of their farming practices. In particular, the clearing of vast areas of forest and scrub by them, and those that came before, has left much of the countryside devastated and useless, as we witnessed close-up on a road trip from home to Goolwa SA recently. Alternately they could be taken on a tour of coal mining region to assess the aesthetics of open cut coal mines and waste dumps, and to inhale the dust and pollution they generate!

Yours sincerely

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<sup>2</sup> <https://reneweconomy.com.au/csiro-gencost-falling-costs-of-solar-and-batteries-confirm-integrated-renewables-are-cheapest-option/>