

**Submission  
No 82**

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

**Name:** Dr Ken Wilson  
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My community supports the transition to renewable energy.

The renewable energy transition is already well underway, with renewables already providing 36% of electricity in NSW - and many more projects in the pipeline. The REZ network has been established to support the delivery of renewable energy where it can be efficiently stored and transmitted at the scale required to deliver the energy transition.

Renewable energy has consistently been shown to be the cheapest form of energy, and is the only form of energy generation that can be built to the scale and in the timeframe required to meet demand and keep the lights on as NSW's coal-fired power stations shut down.

Transitioning to renewable energy will allow us to decarbonise our energy system so that we can meet our emissions reductions targets and keep global warming to 1.5 degrees celsius - the single most impactful thing we can do to slow climate change, reduce the incidence of climate related disasters, protect nature, and ensure a safe future for all NSW communities.

The transition presents an unprecedented opportunity for us to create an energy system that - as well as being low-emissions and low-cost - delivers tangible benefits to communities including local jobs and investment, income streams for landholders, and shared community benefits.

We can achieve positive outcomes for both communities and the environment by developing good policy, adhering to meaningful consultation and co-design principles for large-scale projects, and advancing community ownership and people-centred models that give people greater agency over their power.

The government should deliver a network of Local Energy Hubs to support communities to understand and engage with the renewable energy transition in their regions, and to share in the benefits that the transition can deliver.

A majority of people support the renewable energy transition, including 70% of people living in REZ. The focus of the NSW government should be to work together with communities to continue rolling out renewable energy as quickly as possible, ensuring we reduce emissions in line with our targets and deliver energy reliability as coal power ages out.

with kind regards

Dr Ken Wilson