

**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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my view on the REZ, specifically the Central West and Orana REZ of which I am a resident and land holder in the rural location of Elong Elong.

I wish to make the following points:-

- Without starting of sounding too controversial I do not feel that rezoning my area to a REZ was any part of an election proposal. Meaning, did I get the opportunity to have my democratic say on whether this. Sorry but for many this overwhelming change to our way of living was not broadcast well nor part of a transparent process until it was well upon is.
- There is an overabundance of online/website links to REZ happenings but very little real time, on the ground face to face information provided to rural communities that are being impacted.
- For impacted rural communities there is now a 'them and us' divide. This is tragic that government decision created this – social cohesion is so vital in rural areas that are impacted by isolation and disasters (bush fires, floods, droughts and mice plagues).
- There will be a surge in job creation at the construction phase – but we already know in reality these are visa employees. We know this as we see them every day. This influx of population numbers will create a short term significant increase in demand of goods and services in small local areas that at times will be difficult to meet. Just the domestic water needs will be astronomical.
- Then after construction there are planned very few employees – some major projects quote 10 staff. This is of no benefit locally when it has resulted in many local active farming families having moved out of the area due to the impact of the 'live' solar or wind project on their livelihood and health. And businesses expanded to meet the short term influx will be struggling.
- Converting agricultural land to industrial land will decrease land values of those closely impacted. This has been undisputed. How will families and those elderly living on land be impacted in their future years with this change?
- Often there is an over focus on the 'visual' impact of these projects and it over shadows all the other issues. But the visual impact does need to be acknowledged. Those living in rural and remote communities did not choose to change their view to an industrial one. For us we will see over 100 turbines. We moved for both lifestyle and health reasons – this will negatively impact both.
- What are the real health impacts? I do not believe we have readily available well researched and evidence base information. It very much reads that it is politically biased.
- Local Councils are not staffed, funded or resourced to engage with the rate and complexity of the REZ
- Our local rural infrastructure struggles daily to be at a satisfactory standard. It is inconceivable that it can sustain, particularly roads and transport, these projects.
- All the projects have a limited lifespan – we are creating a burden for future generations to manage non recyclable goods and the rehabilitation of the land.