

**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

I own farmland near Gulgong, which is in the Orana Renewable Energy zone. Almost six years ago we were approached to host a solar farm on our property, which sits under a section of the Wollar to Wellington 330kv power line. At the time Transgrid was owned by the NSW Government and had plans to build a new substation to service the 330kv power line on land adjacent to another farm I own.

My family agreed we should enter an agreement to lease land to a solar energy provider. We also hope it will be possible too graze sheep for fat lambs under the solar panels. We currently graze sheep and cattle.

So obviously we support the global transition to renewable energy, especially in NSW. But we also consider this transition is vital to try to limit the most extreme impacts of climate change. The less predictable the climate, the more difficult it will be to continue our existing agricultural enterprise. So for us, renewable energy is a dual benefit.

It is therefore distressing that purported agricultural advocates are trying to slow or even stop renewable energy projects, especially the argument that they threaten agricultural production..After following debate and misinformation about renewable projects planned in NSW renewable energy zones, I believe much of complaint comes from people who will be neighbours of renewable projects, and do not like the look of wind towers or solar panels.

But for us, the biggest threat to agricultural production is global warming.

There are also plans for solar batteries and solar farms on adjoining properties. We have been consulted regularly by two of the three project planners.

Thank you for your consideration.