

Submission
No 130

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 31 January 2025

Partially
Confidential

I speak from firsthand knowledge of a process of land acquisition from my brother in central west NSW. My family moved to the area in 1980 and has owned and worked the land for agricultural purposes since. While I no longer live on the property, for the past two years I have listened to and counselled by brother and parents in relation to the process they have been subjected to for EnergyCo to forcibly access their property for the construction of power lines. The property is a small one by local standards and the three side by side lines will effectively cut it in half. Working the back half of the property during construction will be impractical, reducing the farm income significantly. Attempts were made to get the route changed, but they were dismissed out-of-hand by EnergyCo, undoubtedly due to cost. Since then my family has been exposed to bullying tactics and blackmail by EnergyCo, along the lines of "If you don't agree to the lease, we will compulsorily acquire your land". This process for land acquisition by blackmail, intimidation and force is reprehensible. The concerns of landowners have not been listened to or accommodated to any degree and this has had a devastating impact on health, wellbeing and the livelihoods of those concerned. The approach taken has been a myriad of lies and lack of accountability, with each step in the process seemingly or deliberately unaware of agreements made in the step before - "I didn't make that agreement so it isn't valid". The process has cost my family through time, stress and money that can never be recouped - any no work has started yet. The attempts at compensation are laughable - half the money offered must be paid as tax to the federal government. The entire process is corrupt and simply a process of bulldozing through a policy at any cost - except to those who have made the decision. The entire project should be put on hold until all sides reach a position that is acceptable - this means EnergyCo will need to show flexibility and listen to the landowners - something that has not occurred in any way to date.