

**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 wish to make a formal submission in relation to the impact of the CWOREZ on the community of Gulgong.

Since the declaration of the REZ in this area, the community have suffered significant anxiety, fatigue and declining mental health due to the overwhelming amount of project and development propaganda circulating and being delivered by developers in the area. The amount of projects proposed within the outskirts of the Gulgong area alone, has to be seen and understood to be believed. Our community did not ask for this REZ to be imposed upon us, but without question, the cumulative impacts of these projects have been felt since the roll out of renewables began, starting with the Beryl Solar Farm in the region. The lack of strategic planning for these projects have been made clear with the issue of accomodation for the non local labour workforce, the lack of identification of social and economic impacts, the lack of planning for essential service delivery to support these developments, not to mention the significant impacts caused to local roads and agricultural operations in the area. The short term “gain” for these projects do not override the long term pain caused to long standing local residents as a result of these developments being concentrated from a regional yet significant historic community that has strong ties to its heritage including gold mining, heritage buildings and agricultural operations. The ability of multiple renewable energy developments to be placed within 5km or 10km from any small regional town, with no long term benefits being delivered directly to that impacted community, including no reduced power prices for the community is an absolute disgrace and does not achieve the objectives of the EP&A Act. The declaration of the REZ needs to be revoked, the SEPP Infrastructure provisions providing an “open door” for renewable projects to occur anywhere despite local environmental planning instruments prohibiting them, clearly shows a misalignment between state and local government priorities and concerns. The community is sick of the false documentation circulating in the community and having to read large documents in order to make submissions on multiple projects that have and will continue to have impacts on the Gulgong community.