

**Submission
No 149**

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

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Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in relation to your Inquiry into the impact of Renewable Energy Zones in NSW.

THE ISSUES:

- **The New England REZ is designed to be 8 GW.** To achieve 8 GW, it is expected the **REZ will need up to 16 GW of capacity** to supply 8 GW, due to the intermittent nature of renewable energy.
- There is **huge opposition to the REZ**, and many communities have been torn apart by proposed renewable energy projects, Energy Co transmission lines and hubs.
- The **New England region is densely populated** with many small holdings and lifestyle blocks throughout the REZ. There has never been a cumulative impact study done for the NEREZ.
- Energy Co has designated four hubs in a 50 km cluster around Armidale and Uralla, again with no cumulative impact consideration. This has led to approximately **860 wind turbines and 10 million solar panels within that 50 km radius being proposed.**
- Consultation has been a farce. **There is no social licence.** The New England community is prepared to fight every step of the way on every badly placed and planned project. These projects will be bogged down for years while communities fight to stop them. Opposition is set to grow unless a reduction in the REZ is forthcoming

SOLUTION:

- **Reduction in overall size of the NEREZ from 8 GW to 3 GW.** The 5 GW that would be lost to the New England would be moved to the Southwest REZ which is currently 3.56 GW.
- SWREZ have an appetite for renewable energy development in their region. Holdings are considerably larger, with less neighbour opposition to proposed projects.
- The current transmission capacity in the New England REZ would be enough to deliver 3 GW to the grid = minimal \$\$ spend in the New England in the way of roads and transmission infrastructure.
- **New England REZ would still be delivering renewable energy** to NSW and still aiding the state in reaching its net zero goals.

I very much look forward to discussing these ideas with you at the upcoming Inquiry.

Kind regards,

Stuart Grills