

Submission
No 152

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

Organisation: Bundure District Landholders Group (BUNDL)

Date Received: 22 July 2025

Listening to the NSW Country Hour last Friday, 18 July, there was a report on the most recent Hearing of the Public Parliamentary Enquiry held in the New England REZ. We reside in the South West REZ and are members of the Bundure Landholders Group, all farmers directly neighbouring and impacted by transmission lines, Dinawan Energy Substation, wind and solar farms.

Is your Enquiry taking into account the South West REZ?

Our Group have invited Energy Co to meetings to seek some clarification on the process and what is expected of the successful Projects to those properties directly impacted but to date we are not getting many answers to the following queries:

*The process in which the access rights were issued in the SWREZ lacked credibility and transparency.

*There was never enough clarity provided to ensure the best projects gained the access rights.

*AMEO were vague in outlining the criteria they would use to allocate the rights.

*There was NO transparency in the process.

*AMEO need to be made accountable for the decisions made.

*Planning in the SWEZ has been poor, the Dinawan substation sits outside the Zone on its most eastern boundary.

* The location of Dinawan is not central to the Zone, which excludes the potential of projects out west of the Zone.

*Projects proposed for the western area of the Zone are limited to the 1.2 GWT capacity into the PEC transmission line.

*There has been NO planning or coordination of transmission lines from projects into Dinawan.

*Energy Co need to step up to coordinate a planned transmission line network.

* 14% of the renewable infrastructure granted access rights is OUTSIDE the SWRE Zone 32 YDWF wind turbines and 450Ha Spark Solar.

*The VIRYA now Origin YDW which now has obtained 40% or 1.46 GWT access rights received Planning consent prematurely Dec 2023.

*The VIRYA YDWF EIS was very short in specific detail and in some areas incorrectly detailed:

- had no plan in securing easements for transmission lines
- Transmission tower standings not correct size

- EIS studies not complete and severely underestimated the environmental impacts of the project
- had no plan for 710-person camp
- minimal fire control measures and no provision of increasing telecommunications
- no road maintenance or upgrade detailed
- no provision for water use
- no acknowledge of the impacts to local communities or neighbouring landholders and their businesses.
- decommissioning has not been addressed

*Yanco Delta Wind Farm now must seek numerous modifications to its development through the EPBC due to its inadequate initial EIS

* We believe the YDWF gained a rushed approval for reasons outside required consideration

* Government agency regulatory requirements have been relaxed in the push to roll out RE with haste to accommodate emission targets

*Project proponents have taken advantage of what appears as two sets of rules for developments of this size.

* Questionable VPA signed by local council based on original cost of build by Virya (\$1B) and now Origin's cost is \$4B. Council has been short changed \$15m that could go into our LGA.

*Lack of detail surrounding VPA agreement between Spark Renewables and local Council and both community and neighbour benefit sharing arrangements.

* Increased Insurance liability to neighbouring landholders.

*Lack of respect, verging on pure arrogance to neighbouring landholders and their community.

*Lack of communication with near neighbours by Renewable Energy proponents.

* The need to acknowledge that "dwellings" to energy companies are usually family homes. There also needs acknowledgement that proximity to these projects starts at property boundaries not "dwellings". It must also be noted that the majority of land holder's hosting the projects do not reside on the properties.

* Neighbour Benefit arrangements appear to have been either stalled since rights access was announced or totally unsatisfactory and do NOT acknowledge the real costs that these projects will have on near neighbours.

* The costs to neighbours are many; Reduced Connectivity, increase fire risk, visual and noise disruption, increase security risks, local road destruction, disruption to agricultural activities, social and health impact, increased insurance costs, biodiversity loss, potential devaluation of property values and increased demands on our businesses ensuring these developments are subjected to some sort of accountability as no one else seems to be.

* The need for a local meeting in Jerilderie with all stake holders including Spark, Origin, Transgrid and Energy Co in a public forum (panel representatives being proponents, with open questions from the floor) for the community to get a better understanding of what is really going on out here. Not these drop-in sessions which are only dividing/conquering and ticking their boxes of community consultation.

*The current method of community consultation by Energy Co and Renewable Energy companies is poor and inadequate.

We would be thankful if your Committee would take into consideration our situation and include the South West REZ in your Parliamentary Enquiry.

Kind regards
Heather Cameron