

Central-West Orana REZ Transmission

Warrumbungle Shire, Mid-Western Regional, Dubbo Regional, Upper Hunter Shire

RESPONSE TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT SUBMISSION

Statement:

On the 5th of November 2021, *in the midst of the COVID pandemic crisis* the Government formally declared creation the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) without opposition and without public consultation.

Notes on reading that following feedback;

- You must not assume that because I have not commented on a clause or section that I do not have something to say. I formerly advised you that insufficient time for feedback has been provided and you very mean extension of time has not affected that. My response in fact is relatively sparse compared to what I would have liked to have provided.
- In order to fully respond to this EIS it is necessary to fully understand what it is for and the future projects that may be enabled by this project. This project does not exist in isolation!
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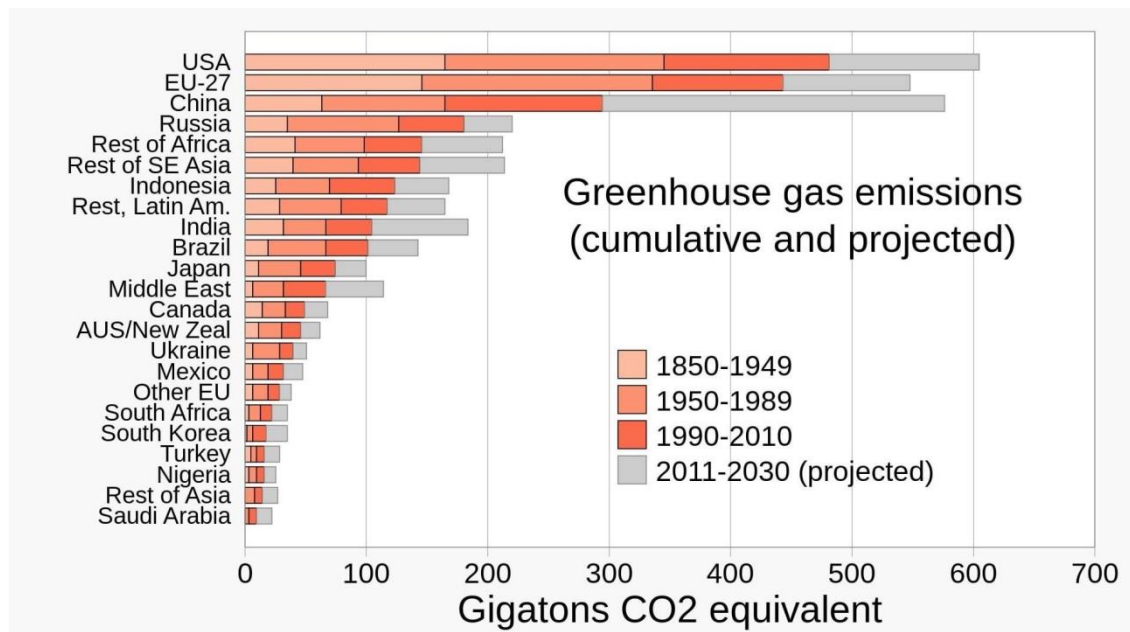
Why are they doing this?

The Government(s) claim that this REZ is necessary to generate what they call green energy from Solar panels, Wind Turbines and Hydro systems (RE) without any astute analysis of whether these forms of energy production are actually Environmentally Friendly. The REZ is essentially conceived as a rural located factory for the production of energy however that factory cannot function without additional power transmission facilities. EnergyCo's proposed project is intended to provide linkage into the CWO-REZ to connect and distribute power back to the states high power usage centres.

The initial declaration allowed for a 3 gigawatt distribution network however the government has since increased this to 6 gigawatts (with the potential to further increase to 9Gw noted on Gov. websites) in order to allow for more RE from Solar, wind and storage projects to be distributed through the NSW transmission network.

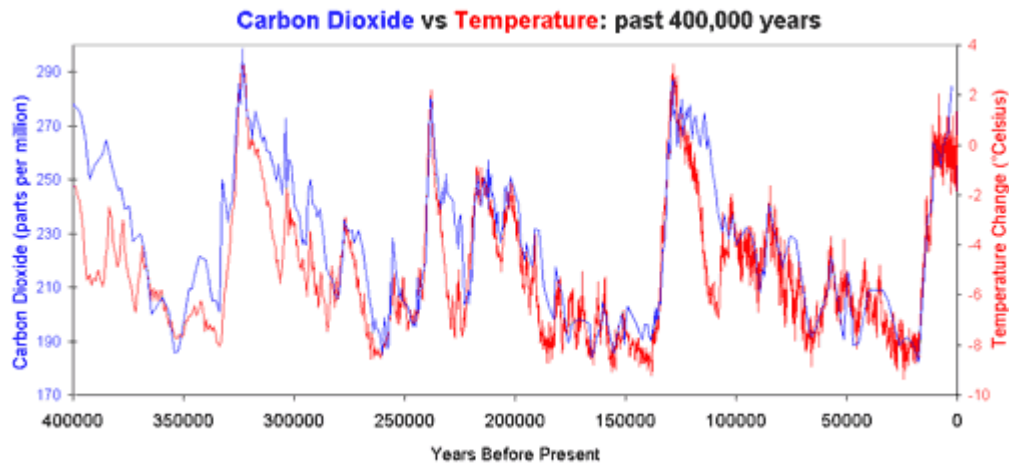
Nowhere in these documents is there any discussion of options, that is, optional power supply sources which might negate or at least reduce the scope of this project or even seek to establish the real need for this expanded RE network. There is an assumption that RE is the only truth and the fact that other countries, China for example, who is already a major polluter and expanding is still building coal fired power stations is not challenged.

Primary CO2 producers, now and future projections.



Compared to the major producers of CO2 Australia and New Zealand's contributions are miniscule and even more so when you consider that Australia is penalised for exporting our low emissions coal. Australia could easily reduce its per head contribution to CO2 production by stopping the export of Coal however to do so would see a net worldwide increase in CO2 production because is Australia's black coal is relatively clean when compared to other coals found around the world, especially Chinas. Re-imagine the above graph if Australia stoped exporting coal to China and they had to burn their own coal, remember that China is reputedly currently building some 40-50 new coal fired power plants!

World organisations, especially the Europeans are laying a guilt trip on Australia demanding that we meet some unscientific calculation re global warming; an online survey of graphs purporting to show the levels of CO2 vs temperature produces highly variable range of graphs most of which do show that CO2 is a constantly and repeatable variable component of our atmosphere and that Temperature to some degree may reflect that, often with delays of hundreds of years, here is one example of such a graph which was produced by %Source: <http://www.klimafakten.de/behauptungen/behauptung-der-co2-anstieg-ist-nicht-ursache-sondern-folge-des-klimawandels> Accessed 5 Aug 2015+



My point is that climate science is not yet sufficiently developed and accurate enough, it is too contested, to risk damaging our own local environments and to risk even further loss of habitat and species on the possibility that our very meagre contribution to CO2 in the atmosphere is relevant, have a look at the above graph, the EU, US and China contribute an estimated 1,740gt of CO2 by 2030 compared to Australia and New Zealand's 65gt (and that includes allowance for Australian coal exports). CO2 is an essential atmospheric compound which is required for all plant life to live, grow and provide us with food, even the meats we eat are reliant on plants for their growth. We will need even more food as the world's population increases so perhaps there is some benefit to be gained.

Australia has one of the highest rates of animal extinctions in the world and the highest for mammals and we have one of the worst habitat clearing records in the world. The greatest cause of extinction is Habitat destruction! Australia is currently No.12 on the list of countries with the most endangered species (Mammals 63, Birds 52, Reptiles 75, Amphibians 47, Fish 125 = Total 362) (source is ICUN Red List, ICUN is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it)

Comments on the EnergyCO Summary report

Note this is not a complete review for the EnergyCO EIS as insufficient time was granted to review the document thoroughly despite my request for additional time.

Page 7 et al. Maps and diagrams are very difficult to interpret as key geographical features that would help interpret location have not been included. (I am a registered Architect [4665] with some 45+ years experience in interpreting plans and maps) The black Stump way is not indicated as a key road in the area for example and no existing transmission lines in the Area around Coolah are shown.

It is obvious that the transmission lines shown are for currently existing or planned projects however it is equally obvious that as a REZ has been created the whole of the REZ will require transmission lines to support future projects not yet released to the public. This is deceitful and smacks of the bullying door to door salesman who just needs to get a foot in the door! You must show the entire plan for the REZ even if it will be refined at a later date. If public consultation is to be genuine it must start with truth right now!

Page 8 (vi) references Timing . what % other design alternatives, ..) . show them!

Page 8 (vi) references other projects which may be required and are not part of this project, i.e. %existing bridges, culverts and/or causeways+but this project has decided to include and assume that this EIS will be enough to cover them! I Quote %These upgrades have also been included in the EIS in the event that they are not determined under a separate planning and approval process, they can be determined under this application+, at best this is nothing but a Project Managers get out of Gaol free card, at its worst it is a blatant attempt to avoid due planning process, its appalling! It will be interesting to see how many people will be caught-out by this deception, suddenly having their access roads torn up and being told %but we told you about this in the transmission line EIS+. This is not acceptable behaviour from a Government body Mr Shonky developer would even be embarrassed by this!

Page 8 (vi) adequately make the point of most of the REX residents ÷ if this REZ is to exist it should be elsewhere, like where the greater power users are located, like our Cities, who for example frivolously waste power in office towers that are lit even when not in use and the Vivid Festival, a terrible waste of power that only a few really gain any benefit from! You plane to destroy our environment with no benefit to our environment either ecological or visual in any way! Again this is unacceptable. Why not make use of the Hunter mines for a REZ as this would greatly reduce the cost and time required for power line transmission upgrades. Better still why not build nuclear power stations in areas that already have significant transmission lines?

Page 9 (vii) now to the point! Reduce greenhouse gas transmissions to net zero by 2050 ÷ . %the electricity generation sector ÷ .. currently Australia's largest source of green house gas emissions accounting for 33% of Australia's total annual emissions in 2020+.

In order to reduce our emissions by 33% our government's genius plan is to copy other countries already failed systems and first vastly increase our emissions by constructing massive Solar, Wind, Hydro generator and energy storage plants none of which can provide the reliable base load power needed to keep industry, homes and the after hours office tower lights that are left burning all night. Then to further decimate this beautiful rural farming country by carving up national parks and farms to provide the power lines necessary to get this power back the ever hungry cities. How on earth can this be considered Green? Not one of the proposed energy RE sources can actually demonstrate that they are both financially and / or environmentally green when you dare to look at their cost from conception to eventual removal/replacement some 20 years later (assuming they don't seize up or burst into fire or have the blades fall off before then) and include their full lifecycle cost including maintenance.

Transmission towers are also not immune to construction and maintenance problems and no matter how hard designers may try they will cut up rural properties and reduce farming output that the whole community has to pay for in their power bills!

This would not be the case if we adopted nuclear power as most of the rest of the world has done, or is doing even third world countries now use nuclear power safely! Currently Bangladesh, Egypt, and Turkey are each building their first nuclear power plants and another 30 countries are considering, planning or starting nuclear power programmes according to the World Nuclear Association website. A collection nuclear power plants

would remove almost all of our electrical generation CO2 contribution and will save out rural and coastal environments from the disastrous RE blight.

Australia is criticised as having a higher per head CO2 output than many other countries, currently 17th on the list of 209 Countries based upon tonnage and 14th in the same list of countries per head of population @ 17.15 or a share of 1.6% of world production but this is because we do not use nuclear power and because we sell our 'clean' coal to other countries helping them reduce their emissions and for which we get penalised.

No literature has been found that shows any Country has demonstrated a real reduction of CO2 emissions using RE and no calculator that can be found on line that supports the use of RE which actually takes into account the full lifecycle carbon foot print of the RE industry.

Simple example TILT Renewables Liverpool Plain Wind Farm proposes to remove 234.7 ha of the Critically Endangered Regent Honeyeater habitat and 256.3 ha of the endangered Swift Parrot habitat. Each of these habitats is old growth forests that have been sequestering carbon for hundreds of years. What will happen to the forest as it is cleared, will the timber be burned? Probably! Also quite probably we will record an increase in Australia's Bird extinction rate from 52 to 54 and when the trees are burnt it will release that carbons back to the atmosphere as CO2 and the trees will no longer exist to store more carbon. These measurement and so many more, like transport carbon costs, are NOT considered when measuring how green the RE systems that replace the forests are.

According to Australia's Chief Scientist %Dec 2009 - Science tells us that the range for forests with continuous canopies (stores) is about 0.5-2 tonnes of carbon per year for each hectare.%If Australia is emitting, as claimed 414,988,850 tons of carbon (2016) our existing forests must be preserved, just these examples are worth and estimated 982 tons of Carbon sequestered per year that the trees are alive. We should be planting more trees, gardens, plants of all types not destroying them what we have left!!

Page vii Need for the project - the project would not be needed if Nuclear power was developed instead of the inept RE as proposed. The EIS states that Coal fired and gas generation is being withdrawn however it does not clarify that the decision to do so is a political one, not one made for environmental concerns.

We do have time to develop carefully, sensibly located Nuclear Power plants in time to meet the 2050 commitment made by Government however our Governments have not done the work necessary to either prove or disprove this claim from either an energy production or a cost per Kw of power of the alternatives. This is just another version of the Snowy 2 financial situation where the public is expected to wear a cost blow-out from 2 billion to 12 billion, that's about and additional \$400 per man, woman and child in the country, plus another 10 billion for transmission lines. What will the cost blow-out for this project be? You don't know because you haven't designed the project yet and you won't have taken into account the possible other projects that you seem to want to cover with this EIS. The paying public has a right to know what these infrastructure projects are going to cost before committing to them, a fact that one of the current State Government ministers was making recently in an ABC interview in relation to infrastructure projects initiated by the previous government. Is this government going to actually fix this and give the public accurate project costs before committing to the project no they are not because they have not provided accurate costing for this project before committing to it.

Reference Figure S-5 - the content of S-5 is totally, contradictory, self serving and does not recognise or admit the destruction that this unnecessary project will do. For example it states that "impacts to agricultural land and farming practices would be avoided and minimised as much as possible throughout construction and operation of the project". How will impacts be "avoided and minimised", you either avoid or you minimise, but in reality you will be reaping destruction on many farms and old growth forests.

TELL THE TRUTH!

Define "... new environmental values ..." I can only read, in the context of this project, as stating that existing environmental ideals of protecting our environment, which this and the REZ projects are supposed to be doing, for a new environmental ideal that is destroy as much as you want in the country, including our old growth forests and endangered and unique wildlife as long as the Cities can go on wasting power as they currently are ... country pays for city extravagances, what the city can see or chooses not to see, the "new environmental value".

I can't believe what I am reading in this table, it is at best a childish and unprofessional attempt to justify a project that cannot be justified on environmental, financial or ethical grounds.

Alternatives Considered, page 12 (x) . this is just the typical format used for all NSW Gov. /DoPE EIS reports (I've written many) and in this case it so extremely simplifies the issues that it makes it clear that only one option was ever considered, Options 1 & 2 were discarded without thought or reasonable investigation, they did not exist to this team, and does not warrant the time spent writing/reading it. If I had ever presented a document with this lack of consideration to DoPE it would have been rejected out of hand.

Where is the nuclear option considered? A nuclear plant located, say, in the existing Hunter coal mines would fall into the Strategic Option 2 category and would be the cheapest and least environmentally damaging option by far because this project would not have been required instead a much smaller local connection project would have been enough! Again this section is all about justifying a predetermined solution regardless of the costs, both in regard to \$ cost and to the environment with no consideration given to residents of the affected areas. It is unprofessional and dishonest.

Approval pathway – P13 (xi) . how very official this section sounds but in reality it is an approvals pathway that is tainted by political interference and off-shore corporate \$. Our Government see this project as a Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI) because foreign nationals are telling them it is. Where is the Australian, unbiased, scientific research that genuinely supports the global warming argument and our part in it.

This RE drive is the global equivalent of the US Defence industry projects ... they need to create jobs and the defence of country is a great political motivator for the population so a defence industry is borne and becomes so big that the country can't survive without it consequently it keeps getting bigger and corporations keep getting richer and the economy blossoms for a while, the only problem is PEACE, what good is a defence industry if we don't get to use the wonderful toys ... well some good does spin off to domestic use but what's really needed is a war to keep the industry pumping and the economy buzzing

Now we have a global war on CO2, a compound that we can't live without by the way, so the corporations have convinced various governments that, on the basis of what a few scientists say we must get rid of CO2 and make the corporations even richer ... Lets ignore the fact that CO2 is a constant variable in our world as it was so long before man started fiddling with the environment, CO2 is a compound that we need to live, it is food for plankton and all of our plant life and once converted, which the plants do for us, it provides food for us too.

Engagement page 15 (xiii) – Paragraph 2 states that %Between December 2020 and September 2021, community consultation was carried out by Transgrid on the preliminary study corridor for new transmission network infrastructure in the Central-West Orana REZ.+ How? The REZ was not declared until 4 Nov 2021! Had community consultation been undertaken as claimed, it would have given the community the ability to clearly reject the REZ proposal!

As stated at the beginning of this response the REZ was established in Parliament without public consultation ò through local investigation and discussion here in Coolah and in public meetings not one person has been found who was aware of this project prior to the REZ declaration. Further the only people I have found who are for the Tilt project appear to be the ones who have received handouts from Tilt. Please produce evidence of all consultations carried out in the period between December 2020 and September 2021 by Transgrid as these are not included in your Community Feedback report, June 2023. Provide all notes of the consultation(s) and the outcomes of consultations by both companies especially highlighting any actions taken to modify the original design in response to feedback received.

Who constitutes the Central West Orana REZ Community Reference Group that you refer to in the table on page 6 of the Community Feedback report, June 2023? Who have you designates as a Key Stakeholder?

At 2.4 of the Community Feedback report, June 2023 you state that %This report provides an overview of the community consultation carried out by EnergyCo between January and March 2023 to inform the ongoing investigations into how community impacts and benefits will be coordinated in the REZ. It describes the data obtained from the online survey responses, key findings and next steps+ This does not leave any space for a response that sad we don't want what your offering at all! This is not consultation it is Dictating! I note that your Coolah CIS on the 15th Feb was scheduled for 4-5.30pm, these are working hours for the majority of the affected local population and this does not reflect an honest consultation policy.

I went to one of your recent public presentations in Coolah and was met with an array of boards that did nothing to detail your project and met staff who could not provide basic feedback unless it was learned linesq This was typical at every community consultationq session it was dictating the project outcomes and telling people to lodge on line if they were not happy. The time allowed for a full review of the documents associated with this EIS is ridiculous and only a very minor extension of time was given despite several requests for significant extensions from numerous people, including myself.

Online surveys such as that mentioned at 4.1 of the Community Feedback report, June 2023 are totally useless as a consultation tool unless a full range of options are included,

especially those that the project team do not want to hear. Again this is not a valid Community consultation methodology.

Community Feedback report, June 2023 point 4.2.1 Where they live is again flawed because your current does not document the potential full extent of the future transmission lines towns to the north and north west who appear to be less affected by your current proposal are unlikely to understand that there will be more to come and would be less inclined to respond, ~~its~~ not in their backyard until it is! Again this process is flawed and dishonest by exclusion. Further the largest section of your graph 30% deserves to be broken down to give a full and respectful picture for all residents.

Why is Dunedoo not referenced in your report, it is a larger town than Coolah, it is more centrally located in the REZ and is more likely directly affected by the currently presented works?

Environmental Assessment Page 61 (xiv)

~~%~~ hostō .+ such a deceitful use of this word! Even landowners who do not agree to this imposition are being labelled 'Host's'. Dictionary definitions all equate Host with an invited Guest %a person who receives or entertains guests, esp. in his own home. a country or organization which provides facilities for and receives visitors to an event.+(dictionary.com). %a person who invites guests to a meal, a party, etc. or who has people staying at their house. Ian, our host, introduced us to the other guests.+(Oxford Dictionary). DO NOT pervert our amazing language to suit your marketing speal. ~~Invaded~~ would be a more honest word for you to use.

~~%~~ *particular, the operation area is expected to increase at the Elong Elong Energy Hub due to the configuration of the initial 330 kV operation. Within permanent easements for operation outside of transmission line tower footprints, agricultural land use would continue with some restrictions to certain agricultural activities (such as cropping or horticulture)+.* quote from EIS which confirms that the design is far from complete and consequently costings are also not sufficiently refined to avoid a Snowy 2 scenario. Say what you mean! ...you are talking about *land under the transmission lines*! This also confirms that farmers will be forced to change their land use options as they vary use to ensure rehabilitation of soils etc, Farmers may be locked into single use farms and will incur increased costs to keep the farmed land productive. Have transmission line heights been designed to allow for all existing agricultural machinery to continue to be used? If not will you replace existing machinery that is too tall with new equivalent capacity and quality machinery that will fit within height restrictions or change the transmission line heights to accommodate all equipment options??? WHO PAYS?

~~%~~ *The Central-West Orana REZ has a long history of agricultural and mining activities, and while these land uses are expected to continue, the region is experiencing a shift in land use, as part of the larger energy transition. This shift is supported by the Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2041 (DPE, 2022a), which recognises and supports the establishment of the Central-West Orana REZ, while aiming to ensure compatibility with existing land use practices and minimise the associated environmental and social impacts”* Speak frankly and honestly this is not a ~~%~~ shift+, farmers are being invaded and forced to change and for most

there is no option but to do so in order to build infrastructure that would not be required but for bad political decisions!

This REZ plan is NOT supported by the majority of community members!

Why has a nuclear option not been explored? If a nuclear option were to be implemented, located say in the Hunter Coal mines, this energy transmission project would not be required and neither would the proposed disruption to farms and wilderness country, i.e. old growth forests and the wildlife contained within.

Australia is already criticised globally for the level of native species extinctions ... how can we justify the continued destruction of native environment and its inhabitants? How do we measure the cost of this proposed destruction as a credit against CO2 emissions noting also that removal of forests increases CO2 atmospheric content directly both by releasing already stored carbon and the reduction of CO2 converters .. i.e. TREES! Our farming communities are already struggling to make a reasonable living when faced with the unrestricted quantity of imports from foreign countries.

Most agricultural operations in the region involve the production of livestock (sheep and cattle), with cropping operations What credible studies have been done on the impacts of electrical radiation on these farm animals. If so please provide the studies for review.

Page 17 (xv) *This would result in an estimated loss of agricultural production of around \$1.35 million per annum during the construction period.....* Whose estimate is this, what is it based upon, what dates are they projected for? Provide your calculations for checking, who picks up the bill for these projected and eventual actual losses?

Management plans *+These impacts would be managed in accordance with Property Management Plans.* Who writes the management plan and, if the farmer, what unbiased support will they be given to produce the management plan and who will pay for the cost of producing them? How will farmers be compensated for losses, either due to loss of access or total use of land due to construction? Where a farmer may currently be earning a living from cropping but will no longer be able to do so in a viable way during and or post project how will they be compensated? Will they be provided with agricultural training to convert to alternate produce types?

WHO PAYS?

The permanent loss of agricultural land is equivalent to 0.04 per cent of the total area of agricultural land use in the four impacted LGA's and represents an estimated productivity loss of around \$317,550 per annum. again provide details and calculations.

Have calculations been done for each individual farm? If not, why not? How will farmers be compensated for loss of earnings and how will individual losses be calculated?

Have you assessed possible impacts to both surface water and subterranean water for each property?

How will damage to existing natural water courses be managed?

Have you identified all natural springs or potential bore water sites along the proposed construction routes? In a country where water is a critical asset to everyone how will you avoid damage to existing water courses both above and below ground.

Your project proposed the use of vast quantities of water during the construction phase.

Where will you source that water? Presumably from subterranean sources is so how will you ensure that your use will not conflict with farmer and community water supply. After a few years of above average rain we would expect the subterranean water deposits to be

relatively full but we are now entering a new drought period the duration of which cannot be forecast. In July 2023 the NSW Department of Primary Industries declared *"an increasing area in the Hunter LLS region has transitioned into the Drought-Affected category. July rainfall was below average for most of the Central Tablelands, Hunter and Greater Sydney LLS regions. Farm dam water levels are variable across the four LLS regions."* Since July the area of the REZ has only received patch intermittent rainfall and is rapidly heading to Drought status. Water is critical to us! Other RE projects are also proposing the use of very large quantities of subterranean water, how will you coordinate and manage water volume use over all projects to ensure that no existing farm or local community will be put at risk in both short and long term? Can you absolutely guarantee not to taint existing water supplies?

Landscape character and visual amenity

I chose to live where I live BECAUSE of its current landscape character and visual amenity! The monstrous constructions that both you and the RE contractors are proposing are totally alien to the existing character of this beautiful land. I challenge you to find any body of people (who have not been paid off by the developers) who do not agree with me. Your projects are dividing communities; over the last two weeks I have been abused by 2 people because I was posting *information* about the proposed wind farms on line, these men were previously casual friends. Both were concerned that my posts on line may cause Tilt to withdraw their financial sponsorship for the club that we are members of. I do not know if Tilt ordered their actions but I would not be surprised if they had!

"During construction, the project would result in negligible to moderate impacts at the landscape zone viewpoints and representative viewpoints during the day and night."

Moderate impacts would occur in locations where views" quote from page xv

I ask says WHO? .. city based members of the project teams that have a vested interest in the projects progressing and who have no love for this country but can only relate to a few exciting highlights, a kind of viewpoint fed by the moronic power consuming displays like Vivid! Unstilled minds that cannot appreciate quiet slow moving beauty.

I chose to live where I live because of my love of this wide open beautiful undulating country as had been so wonderfully described by so many artists and poets, none better than Dorothea Mackellar's A Sunburnt Country ... *"I love a sunburnt country, A land of sweeping plains, Of ragged mountain ranges, Of drought and flooding rains, I love her far horizons, I love her jewel sea, Her beauty and her terror - The wide brown land for me."* This country is not for city folk to destroy!!!!

Perhaps Dorothea's poem will have to be rewritten something like this ...

I love a sunburnt country, A land of sweeping plains, Of ragged mountain ranges, Of towering power transmission lines and bird swatting generators, Of drought and flooding rains, I love her far broken horizons with flashing tower lights, I love her jewel sea with flashing tower lights, Her beauty and her terror - The once wide brown land for me....

Biodiversity

No impact on any threatened species is acceptable! No removal of old growth forests can be acceptable! On destruction of already declared National park or state forest is acceptable!

Biodiversity offsets do not work, they are not correctly recorded and managed, they are just a methodology for developers without conscience to destroy more of our environment. The use of Biodiversity offsets are not an acceptable method to justify more environmental destruction and they never actually compensate for that destruction. Once the forests and associated ecosystems are gone they are GONE forever! History proves this! Your analysis is simply self serving and is unprofessional and unacceptable.

Social

You kill yourselves in the first line, you refer to suburbs! These are rural communities that you are screwing up not suburbs of Sydney and Newcastle! %Targeted engagement+, yep we understand what this means ð you pick and choose who you will listen too! The only way that a genuine Social impact study could be of value is if it was approached with an open mind and was researched and written by residents of the affected communities! Your document is biased, ignorant and of no value.

Economic

Again your statements and estimates are worthless because the reality is that workers will be brought in and housed in their own communities which will then be removed as the project moves from one location to another FIFO! Any economic value to communities will be striped out through the loss in production on farms. There will be no benefit to local tradesmen who are so scarce in the region that they are already fully employed! Again your document is biased, ignorant and of no value.

Energy Hub Site Selection - When selecting energy Hub locations you nominate a number of factors that you considered however from the information provided the intent of the factors is not clear how you would assess the item as a meeting your criteria or not as you do not state clearly what your criteria are. For example %quality and extent of biodiversity values and heritage sites+and %visibility of the site from residential properties, and/or surrounding areas+. what parameters do you use to assess suitability for your purposes and if the Communities priorities differ from yours how will you resolve the differences?

This document is NOT a complete review of the EIS as insufficient time was allowed to such as comprehensive review.

Conclusion:

OUR communities do not want this project or the associated RE projects!

EnergyCo's project must be put on hold, and the Central-West Orana REZ dissolved until full detailed technical investigations into the reality of Climate change and so-called renewable energy (RE) generators are scientifically proven and full comprehensive public consultation is completed and wide public endorsement achieved. It must not be assumed that the Public will endorse any REZ.

Studies into Climate Change and renewable energy options MUST consider all possible options, including nuclear, and studies must include estimates of cost based on current day Australian dollar amounts and must include allowance for the full economic and environmental production and protection, maintenance, replacement, decommissioning and full disposal of all hardware. All *assumptions* must be clearly stated with associated costs and how those costs were arrived at revealed. (The sort of estimated provided by the CSIRO to justify the Snowy 2 project is not acceptable). Full costs including transmission costs must be allowed for as must be the cost of all engineering and environmental and public consultations. You are using public funds and we have a right to know exactly how they are being spent. THERE MUST NEVER BE A REPEAT OF THE SNOWY 2 PROJECT FARSE.

The use of the terms Wind-farm, Solar-farm or similar must not be used. Associating these Generation projects with a farm seeks to portray the generators as friendly and organic which is something they are not.

All Wind, Solar and Hydraulic power generation plant projects must be held in abeyance until whole scenario of a rural Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) is revisited and must only be progressed if public consultation shows a vast majority of people (assume 75%+), support the projects. Special priority voting privilege must be given to residents living local to proposed REZ and associated projects as they will be the ones most affected by the project.

No old growth forests are to be affected by renewable energy (RE) projects for any reason. No environment supporting any endangered or near endangered wildlife species is to be impacted by a project and a safety margin around such areas is to be provided. Safety margins must be agreed in advance though consultation with experts *currently working in the field of the affected endangered species*, and the local public. Reference to previous Gov. policy on the endangered species must be consulted and respected.

All information provided by Government(s) and its Employees in Public Consultations must be factual and provable, before presentation to the public, through rigorous scientific and engineering research. As the Government and its Consultants who prepare the supporting reports used for Public Consultation must be considered as professional and expert in their fields criminal penalties must be imposed for material presented and later shown to be not factual when applied to the Australian condition.

Realistic time for Public consultations and submissions must be allowed, i.e. 60 days for minor reports and 120 days for larger reports as a minimum. (Note: The reports provided are typically complex, lengthy and prepared by people who are presumably already expert in their fields, the public can not be assumed to be so and they may wish to consult their own experts prior to making their own

submissions, an action which can only support the effectiveness of the Public consultation process and time is required to allow for this.)

Summation of Public Consultation inputs must be conducted by expert unbiased third party organisation(s) that will provide a full and detailed report of the submissions made and their response to each submission and the weight of influence of each submission. Where a person or organisation has identified itself in making a submission that person or organisation must be given an opportunity to respond to the assessment of their submission by the Consultant and that response assessed as though it was a new submission. Submissions made that request further scientific detail in support of a project must be provided with the information in a timely manner and sufficient time for further response provided.

Concluding statement and advice:

Demonstrate some real leadership and abandon this unconscionable renewable energy scam and make the decision to go nuclear NOW.

Nuclear is safe when managed competently and we have demonstrated experience doing so, we have been safely running a nuclear plant at Lucas Heights on the fringes of Sydney for over 60 years even third world countries are doing it!

Nuclear power is (I believe) cheaper overall, it is sustainable, it will provide reliable peak and base-load power and we have an abundant supply of all materials required to produce it and we have many ideal sites upon which to build them without further destroying our environment.