

Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

Submission No:	519
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Publication:	Making the submission public but withholding your name
Attachments:	See attachment
Submitter Comments:	

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have not had the time to read the legislation being proposed however I do wish to submit my thoughts regarding any renewable project developments especially those involving wind turbines. These projects have a huge negative impact upon local ecosystems and communities. As these communities are the life blood of agriculture and natural resource extraction, the two highest exported commodities, State and Federal Governments need to take them into significant consideration.

Local Governments must be included in the approval process with the opportunity for residents to object via a mandatory vote being held whereby the option to vote is not mandatory however it must be mandatory that a vote is held. Public consultations and partitions are often held too late for residents to voice their objections.

The Roma region, where I live, was settled by my husbands ancestors. The property where I have lived for the past 20 years was overlooked by Major Mitchell on exploring this area is referred to as Champaign Country. An extract from his diary of May 8th, 1846, reads,

"...I ascended an elevate north eastern extremity of Mount Abundance, and from it beheld the finest country I have ever seen in a primeval state. A champaign region, spotted with wood, stretching as far as human vision, or even the telescope could reach."

Roma recently received a national tourism award and is renowned for its 'Easter in the Country' festivities welcoming visitors from all over the state and country to see the great things our region and lifestyle has to offer. However this is all being threatened by 'Wind Energy Factories' where our natural vistas are being turned into industrial landscapes. At present there is one wind energy project being developed on the northeastern aspect of the town and there are another three being scoped to Roma's north and west that I am aware of.

Hundreds of turbines over 280m tall nearly surrounding our town, killing birdlife such as wedgetail eagles, broilgas, migratory birds and native fauna while also affecting critical insect populations. Transmission lines polluting our horizons and monstrosities dominating the skyline tearing at the fabric of our community. At this very moment our neighbours being approached to sign up with wind energy companies and we would have to leave if they did.

Landholders will leave their properties rather than live with the wind turbines and the land will suffer with less care, maintenance and feral animal control as will the communities with less money being spent in the region, less children going to school, less local employment.

It's for these reasons that residents must have a say about the development of renewable energy projects, especially wind energy, as it has the most devastating effect and highest impact on communities spanning decades with far too few benefits. If you want people to live in the rural, regional areas where there are so many disadvantages due to distance and lack of services then you must let them have a say and what their environment looks like and not take away the main thing that brought them there in the first place...clear horizons, a love of country and community.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed legislation.