



IAN MCDONALD

OBJECT

Submission No: 164176

Organisation:		<i>Key issues: Energy Transition, Biodiversity, Visual impacts, Traffic and transport, Noise and vibration, Agricultural impacts and land use, Social and economic, Physiological - infrasound noise / electromagnetic interference / shadow flicker / blade glint</i>
Location:	<i>Walcha New South Wales 2354</i>	
Submitter Type:	<i>I am a member of the local community who would be particularly and directly affected by the proposed development</i>	
Attachment:	<i>Mental Health Impacting Rural Australia - 10th March 2024.docx</i>	

Submission date: 3/15/2024 4:01:30 PM

Please see my uploaded file - Mental Health Impacting Rural Australia

15th March 2024

Mental Health Impacting Rural Australia

Kentucky NSW IPCN Hearing (14th March) Submission

It's time governments take another look at the mental health of their own people and stop putting '*renewable*' targets ahead of the well-being of rural Australians.

The ruthless rollout of wind and solar across our rural landscape is only made possible by absentee tenants hosting '*renewable*' energy developments. They are large corporations and Industry Superannuation Funds from the '*big end of town*', lured by government guaranteed returns and the hubris of their CEO's. These absentee landholders sit in board rooms without any *duty of care* for the anguish and human misery they are bringing about on rural people.

Rural Australians feel oppressed, we feel neglected, and we feel helpless in stopping this runaway '*renewable*' juggernaut that is destroying our landscape and livelihoods. It is taking its toll, and although we have the resolve to never give in, I feel our resilience and health is waning as the juggernaut rolls on. So much so, that anytime I attend meetings and run into people I haven't seen for a while, I can't help but think how much their body language and sometimes appearance has contracted since we last met.

Anxiety, stress, and uncertainty is ***tearing the bush apart***. I know myself, from the time I get up in the morning until the time I go to bed, the rollout of wind and solar is foremost on my mind. Running my commercial farming business has now taken second place to the distraction of '*renewable*' energy in my day-to-day life.

Most of the general population don't have a clue about the real-life turmoil unfolding in rural Australia, and the people sitting in board rooms don't give a damn about the people in the bush, but we are the ones bearing the brunt of this *grand fraud*, that we don't want a bar of. ***It's not a fair go***, and it's taking its toll on our mental health. We feel little consideration has been given to this serious issue and any government support that has been forthcoming is not keeping pace with the '*renewable*' juggernaut.

So called, '*Community Engagement Forums*' have been convened by governments and proponents, as an opportunity to simply tell us what they intend doing to us and our landscape. Seldom has any dialogue resembled meaningful consultation. Whatever issues we raise are ignored, leaving us in a state of flux, without any tangible plan having been tabled going forward to the proposed construction phase of these developments.

A period of a decade or more will see an influx of thousands of itinerant workers descend on localities, villages, towns, and inland cities - driving many residents and businesses out, their places to be filled by carpetbaggers, who come for short term gain. There will also be massive disruption to our transport routes causing chaos and further stress. Once the wind and solar farms are completed, the carpetbaggers will leave, and we will be left with yet another ghost-like village or town in our landscape.

Boorowa, once a model town on the south-western slopes of NSW, is a classic example of the *shambles* that will come about to small communities in our region.

Then will come the operational phase for a further twenty years to endure - watching thousands of these monsters, the size of city skyscrapers, pumping out harmful levels of noise, infrasound, and shadow flicker. These are the things that literally *drive people mad* and cause them to get sick, so sick that many abandon their acoustically toxic homes, and flee.

When the wind and solar farms have reached their use by date, we are told they will be decommissioned. But will they be decommissioned, or will they be left as stranded assets surrounding guttered communities without soul and set in a landscape resembling an industrial graveyard. Or will the government just compulsorily acquire more land, and stealthily restart the cycle.

'*Renewable*' energy is environmentally, economically, and ethically flawed. It has not been properly thought through and it has far too many '*unintended consequences*' for it to be fit for purpose. And in their haste to roll it out, governments, in being complicit with the '*big end of town*', have failed to recognize mental health as a major casualty. Government is driving its own people to relationship meltdowns and depression - leading to suicide.

This nation cannot afford to let the social fabric of *the bush* be undermined any further by this *unparalleled travesty*. And for this nation to prosper, we must regain a fundamental respect for an *unspoiled landscape* and regain a fundamental respect for our *quintessential Australian way of life*.

Ian McDonald, Walcha Grazier.

