



SALLY EDWARDS

OBJECT

Submission No: 196908

Organisation:	Key issues: <i>Social and economic, Land use, Biodiversity, Visual</i>
Location: <i>New South Wales 2381</i>	
Submitter Type: <i>an individual making a submission on my own behalf</i>	
Attachment: <i>Sally Edwards_Spicer's Creek SUBMISSION to IPC Aug24.pdf</i>	

Submission date: 9/6/2024 2:58:32 PM

Please see my submission attached.

Spicers Creek Wind Project (SSD 41134610) SUBMISSION September 2024

Dear Mr Neal Menzies and Panel Commissioners Ms Suellen Fitzgerald & Mr Michael Wright

Please accept my further submission (in addition to my presentation and letter) regarding Spicers Creek Wind Project. I have inserted the items I wish to address in the table below and any associated, comment, concern or suggested recommendation.

Item/Details	Comment/Concern/Recommendation
<p>Assessment of the Central West Orana REZ</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There has never been a full EIS including, potential social, economic, cumulative, environmental impacts done on the merits of the detailed planning of the Central West Orana REZ. 2. The scope and scale of the REZ changes every month, there is never any new assessment on what the big picture now looks like and what the costs, benefits and impacts will be. 3. To NOT ASSESS this REZ model in its entirety is of great concern to me and is why I so diligently look at each individual project across the CWO REZ. 4. I believe this lack of assessment for essentially one mammoth CSSI development (>40 SSD and SSI projects “currently”) is potentially gross negligence on the part of the NSW Government and reprehensible
<p>Workforce Accommodation</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. I have concerns that there cannot be adequate assessment and consideration given to impacts of the Workforce Accommodation aspect of this project, without confirmed and detailed plans for the provision of the workforce accommodation. How can the public provide their genuine feedback without confirmed details of where the workforce accommodation will be based and what that will look like?
<p>Transparent analysis of cumulative impacts and costs vs benefits</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. There has not been ANY detailed studies conducted or further detailed analysis done on the cumulative impacts likely to occur across the CWO REZ. Cumulative Impacts should then become a regular monitoring responsibility as each new proposed project or proposed transmission or proposed increase to capacity becomes public. 7. I fear that without considering these impacts now, in a diligent and detailed way, that the costs and impacts could be unimaginable and likely unmanageable.

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<p>Cumulative REZ wide Social Impacts</p>	<p>8. It shouldn't be the responsibility of the Developer to assess and monitor REZ wide impacts. It should be the responsibility of the NSW Government and maybe even EnergyCo in their formal capacity. The CWO REZ requires urgent assessment to the REZ wide cumulative impacts and public consultation with the detailed findings. This lack of assessment is only contributing to the divide – as there is simply TOO MUCH THAT WE DON'T KNOW and much that we can only suspect and predict.</p> <p>9. Mid-western Council have analysed their capacity to cope with various impacts of the REZ delivery, how are smaller, less-resourced Councils (Warrumbungle) going to be empowered to assess, monitor and mitigate their own unique challenges, including Social and economic impacts? Eg Health, Emergency services (all), Education, even access to services that are already hard to access (long wait-times)?</p> <p>10. Will crime and/or road safety become an issue with a largely "FIFO or DIDO" workforce? Where will the workforce "actually" come from? With such a low unemployment rate, it is extremely hard to comprehend how locals will contribute to the workforce, without impacting on the employment in other existing industries? Will it be an immigrant workforce? Will they embrace the rural way of life and understand or respect our values? There are examples all around the world, where this has been a cause of significant impact to a rise in crime etc. Without the transparent answers to these questions (for the entire REZ), how can we assess and plan to mitigate adequately?</p>
<p>Assessment burden</p>	<p>I note that in 2022, the number of public objections for a State projects to be required to be referred to the IPC rose from 25 to 50. I would also like to note the significant number of objections being received to many of the projects now being referred to the IPC. The transparency, consultation and public involvement with the planning and delivery of the Central West Orana REZ, is disappointing, frustrating and I believe has contributed to the numerous IPC referrals.</p> <p>I would like to acknowledge the burden on the IPC to determine each of these REZ projects individually and to address problems of such significant magnitude. I feel, had the entire CWO REZ received sufficient public scrutiny, a lot of the issues may have been addressed by better public awareness, knowledge and involvement.</p>

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	<p>With this in mind, I see it crucial that the IPC sets clear precedents with the conditions for this project, to enable good solutions and therefore transparent expectations for the many projects that look to follow.</p>
Note of thanks	<p>I would like to sincerely thank you for your efforts in considering and analysing all of the concerns presented to you.</p> <p>It's hard for us to witness our communities be challenged in a way that costs friendships, neighbour relationships and even community cohesion – I can't find an answer to that, other than by empowering communities to develop their own solutions to the identified need. Locally driven industry development, locally owned, locally managed, but that would require political bravado and policy change. The very nature of large-scale project delivery, that is corporate owned, unfortunately brings with it challenges that I don't believe rural people and rural communities deserve to face.</p> <p>Your diligence, your commitment and your persistence in finding either good solutions or acknowledgement where there needs more robust work and legal scrutiny is much appreciated.</p>

Thank you for the opportunity to provide further feedback regarding this project.

Yours Sincerely,

Sal Edwards