

BUSINESS HUNTER

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NSW Government | Energyco

Via Email - contact@energyco.nsw.gov.au

RE: BUSINESS HUNTER RESPONSE TO RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONE DRAFT DECLARATION

Business Hunter is pleased to write in support of the NSW Government's Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) Draft Declaration and provide feedback for consideration.

As the peak business organisation for the Hunter region, Business Hunter is the voice of Australia's largest regional economy, with a membership group spanning more than 4,200 businesses across ten local government areas. We represent the perspectives of member and affiliate businesses across all sectors and all sizes of business, including those involved in energy research & innovation, production and supply. We also represent some of the state's major energy users.

Business Hunter welcomes the NSW Government's draft declaration of the Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) and the progress it makes toward achieving firmed renewable energy supply in an increasingly uncertain energy marketplace.

With energy prices predicted to rise by 50% over the next two years, the release of the draft declaration is one more step toward the elusive goal of certainty at a time when the only real certainty we currently have is the retirement of major existing assets.

With the closure of Liddell in approximately six months, there is an urgent need for strong leadership and coordination in the Hunter as we pave the road to a new energy economy.

For business and industry, access to stable, reliable, reasonably priced energy is key to getting on with core business. Uncertainty increases vulnerability to energy price shocks, which is putting immense pressure on businesses.

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Through the release of the draft declaration, we are pleased to see that the Government has reached another important milestone, as we eagerly await the arrival of REZ network infrastructure needed for successful transition.



Bob Hawes
CEO
Business Hunter