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IPA RESEARCH TOUR OF MALLEE AND RIVERLAND REGIONS TO DISCUSS IMPACT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

“Communities right across regional Australia are on edge as renewable energy projects demanded by inner-city elites threaten their way of life and livelihoods; communities in the Mallee and the Riverland are no different,” said Daniel Wild, Deputy Executive Director of the Institute of Public Affairs.

This week, the IPA team will visit Mildura, Robinvale, Swan Hill, Kerang, Renmark, and Berri to listen to the communities expected to shoulder the greatest burden to meet unrealistic renewable energy demands.

“The EnergyConnect and VNI West transmission line projects will greatly impact the ability of local farmers to do what they do best, which is produce world-leading food and fibre that creates our national wealth,” said Mr Wild.

“These projects will mean construction disruptions, environmental impacts, farming limitations, and the erosion of property rights and control of who can enter your land for locals, not to mention the billions of dollars in costs to taxpayers, and a less secure energy grid.”

“It’s one thing to live in the inner-city and demand expensive and unreliable renewable energy, it is entirely another to live in the regional areas which have to suffer from constant threats to property, and the destruction of prime agricultural land to meet these demands.”

The IPA’s research tour of the Mallee and Riverland follows a series that has included Victoria’s Central Highlands, South West Western Australia, Dubbo and the Central Tablelands, New England and the Upper Hunter in New South Wales, along with tours of the Darling Downs, Maranoa, and Northern Queensland, all of which are other key net zero impact zones.

“The political class and inner-city elites who demand policies such as net zero are never the ones who are most impacted by them. It is working Australians in the outer-suburbs and rural and regional areas that get left with the bill and left behind,” said Mr Wild.

“Australia relies on our regions to put food on our tables and keep the lights on, and yet, a typical worker in regional Australia is over three times more likely to have their job put at risk by net zero than a typical worker in the inner cities.”

“We need political leaders to back the regions. Our regions have so much promise and potential but are being held back by short-sighted policies which risk closing critical industries, and ending well-paid, full-time jobs.”

To download previous IPA research on this subject [click here](#).

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