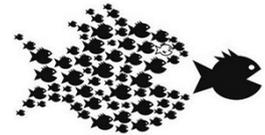


Voices of the Valley



Voicing the concerns of the Latrobe Valley community

www.votv.org.au

Facebook: Voices of the Valley

contact@votv.org.au

voicesofthevalley.nationbuilder.com

Voices of the

Incorporated Association

14/09/2021

Submission on the Offshore Electricity Infrastructure (Regulatory Levies) Bill 2021 and the Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Bill 2021.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the proposed Offshore Electricity Infrastructure (Regulatory Levies) Bill 2021 and Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Bill 2021.

This submission is made on behalf of Voices of the Valley, a community advocacy group. For the last 5 years we have been campaigning for a plan, a just transition for the people of the Latrobe Valley to move from an economy based on electricity produced from brown coal to a more diverse economy.

Like other coal-mining communities, we recognise that electricity generated from burning coal is coming to an end and we look forward to opportunities for our workforce to use skills built up through decades of working in the power industry to develop various forms of clean renewable energy.

There are many advantages of all types of renewable energy across Gippsland. Gippsland has a great wind energy resource. Star of the South is one piece of the transition, creating as much energy as the Yallourn power station that has now been earmarked for closure in 2028 but we seem to be being left behind.

Without Federal government stepping up and facing to the next economy coal communities are being impacted by their decisions.

Gippsland communities have been waiting, somewhat impatiently, since a wind farm was first proposed off the coast of Gippsland, for the idea to be supported and approved by the Federal Government. It is pleasing that these two proposed Bills are finally being presented to Parliament. There are now two proposals for off-shore wind farms which can be connected to the grid and provide a measure of energy security which is in danger of being lost as existing coal-fired power stations come closer to being shut down.

Off-shore wind farms offer reliable power (as demonstrated by projects in the Northern Hemisphere), opportunities for employment in construction and maintenance, the generation of power without greenhouse gas and noxious particle emissions and the development of large scale energy projects without taking more and out of production. We urgently need such large scale projects to complement the small scale adoption of domestic solar panels that so clearly demonstrate a widespread acceptance of renewable energy as a crucial measure to combat climate change.

Wind energy is a part of the energy transition that the Gippsland community creating jobs and investment in the region.

Wind power is the least greenhouse energy source available; **Australia has some of the best wind resources in the world.** ...

We hope this signals a Federal Government commitment to facilitating renewable energy. We urge you to pass this proposed legislation with all deliberate speed.

The offshore wind energy sources must include a percentage of community benefits back to the surrounding communities.

Voices of the Valley have continued working with other communities across Australia imagining what individual communities can achieve and would be happy to discuss Community Energy further with this board.

Once again, thank you for allowing the opportunity for communities being involved in the future of our regions.

Submission created by

Marianne Robinson Secretary Voices of the Valley & Wendy Farmer President Voices of the Valley

