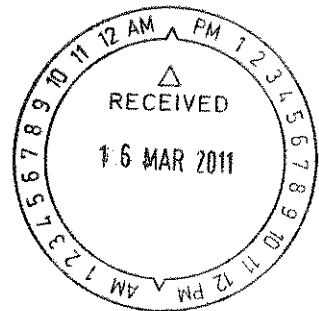


GORDON McGLASHAN

6 MARCH 2011

DEPARTMENT OF THE SENATE
PO Box 6100
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA
ACT 2000



DEAR SIR/MADAM

THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF RURAL WIND FARMS

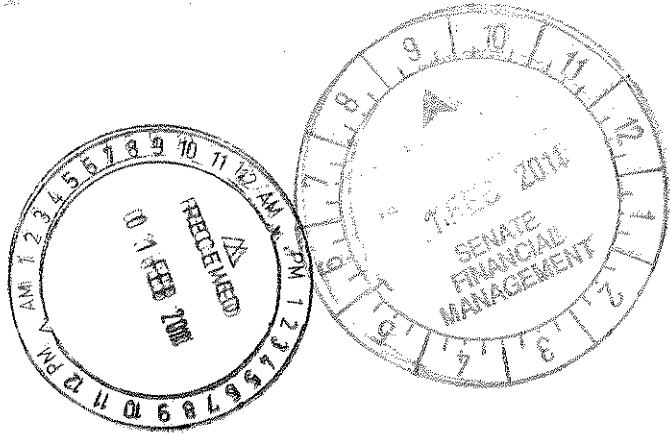
I REFER TO MY SUBMISSION SENT TO YOU ON 25 JANUARY 2011 IN RESPECT OF THE ABOVE SENATE INQUIRY.

SEVERAL HUNDREDS SUBMISSIONS HAVE NOW BEEN PUBLISHED ON THE SENATE WEB SITE BUT MY SUBMISSION IS NOT INCLUDED DESPITE THE FACT THAT IT WAS SENT PRIOR TO THE CLOSING DATE OF 10 FEBRUARY 2011.

I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ADVICE AS TO WHY MY SUBMISSION HAS NOT BEEN PUBLISHED.

YOURS FAITHFULLY

(1)
GORDON S. McGLASHAN



DEPARTMENT OF THE SENATE
P.O. Box 6100
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ACT 2600

THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF RURAL
WIND FARMS

I REFER TO THE ABOVE INQUIRY AND
SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS .

1. THE STATED PURPOSE OF RURAL WIND
FARMS ~~THE~~ IS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE
GAS EMISSIONS FROM EXISTING INEFFICIENT
BROWN COAL ELECTRICITY POWER PLANTS
ALREADY IN OPERATION AND CONNECTED
TO THE STATE ELECTRICITY GRID .
WIND FARMS ARE EXTREMELY UNRELIABLE
AS THEY RELY ON AIR MOVEMENT TO OPERATE,

THAT IS, BELOW A PRESET AIR VELOCITY THEY DO NOT FUNCTION AND ABOVE A PRESET VELOCITY THEY ARE SHUT DOWN TO PROTECT THE INFRASTRUCTURE FROM PHYSICAL DAMAGE. THIS MEANS THAT THE OPERATORS OF THE COAL FIRED ELECTRICITY GENERATING PLANTS DO NOT KNOW WHAT QUANTUM OF ELECTRICITY WILL BE FED INTO THE STATE GRID FROM THE WIND FARMS AT ANY POINT IN TIME RESULTING IN A SITUATION WHERE THEY ARE UNABLE TO MODERATE THEIR RATE OF PRODUCTION WITH ANY DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE AND ACCURACY.

UNLIKE HYDRO ELECTRIC POWER GENERATING SYSTEMS WIND FARMS ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR CONNECTION TO A STATE GRID SYSTEM AND THIS PRACTICE SHOULD BE DISCONTINUED. ALL THAT IS HAPPENING IS THAT ENERGY COSTS TO THE CONSUMER ARE INCREASED. IT WOULD MAKE MORE SENSE TO DIVERT THE SAVINGS TO UNDERTAKE RESEARCH ON MORE EFFICIENT

COAL FIRED POWER GENERATION.

THESE COMMENTS DO NOT APPLY TO SMALL WIND FARMS INSTALLED TO PROVIDE ELECTRICAL ENERGY TO ISOLATED TOWNS NOT CONNECTED TO THE STATE GRID. IN THIS SITUATION, WITH GENERATOR BACK UP, THEY WOULD BE QUITE SUITABLE. IT MUST BE NOTED THAT THIS SITUATION DOES NOT APPLY TO ANY OF THE WIND FARMS IN OPERATION OR UNDER EVALUATION.

2. WIND FARMS ARE UGLY AND EMIT SIGNIFICANT SOUNDS AND VIBRATIONS WHICH RESULT IN HEALTH PROBLEMS FOR ANYONE WORKING OR LIVING CLOSE TO THE TURBINE. THIS PROBLEM WILL INCREASE IN SEVERITY AS A RESULT OF THE TEND TO INTRODUCE MUCH LARGER AND FASTER TURBINES LOCATED CLOSER TOGETHER.

BECAUSE OF THIS SITUATION ANY WIND FARMS WHICH MAY BE APPROVED MUST BE LOCATED AT LEAST 10 KILOMETRES FROM ANY EXISTING BUILDINGS WITH MUCH

STRICTER CONTROLS PLACED ON THE SIZE OF TURBINES.

FURTHER MORE, WIND FARMS MUST NOT BE CONNECTED IN ONE PARTICULAR AREA WHICH ONLY EXACERBATES THE PROBLEM.

3. THE PROPOSAL TO INSTALL AN INDUSTRIAL WIND FARM IN THE PENSHURST DISTRICT CREATES PARTICULAR ISSUES AS FOLLOWS:

(a) THE DISTRICT RELIES ENTIRELY ON ~~THE~~ UNDER GROUND WATER STREAMS FOR THE SUPPLY OF ALL WATER. THESE WATER STREAMS HAVE NEVER BEEN EVALUATED AND IT IS NOT KNOWN WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM AS A CONSEQUENCE OF MAJOR EXCAVATION WORKS IN ANY AREA.

(b) THE AREA IS PART OF A UNESCO GEOTHERMAL PARK FOR WHICH WE MUST ACCEPT SOME RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE UNIQUE FEATURES OF THE AREA.

(C) SEVERAL LARGE ONSHORE WIND TURBINE PROJECTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN APPROVED FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN THE AREA.

APPROVAL OF ANOTHER LARGE INSTALLATION IN THE SAME AREA WOULD BE GROSSLY UNFAIR TO THE LOCAL INHABITANTS AND CREATE SERIOUS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

4. THE USE OF DEVELOPERS SUCH AS RES IS QUESTIONABLE. THEY ARE AN OVERSEAS BASED COMPANY WITH A POLICY THAT ALL WIND TURBINE INFRASTRUCTURE WILL BE IMPORTED INTO AUSTRALIA. THIS MEANS THAT THERE WILL BE NO WORK OR BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCALS.

5. TO SUMMARISE, I RECOMMEND THE
~~THE~~ FOLLOWING POLICY.

(a) ANY WIND FARM PROPOSED FOR
 CONNECTION INTO A STATE POWER
 GRID BE AUTOMATICALLY REJECTED,
 ANY PERMITS ALREADY APPROVED
 BE RESCINDED.

(b) WIND FARMS PROPOSED FOR LOCATED
 TOWNS, ETC BE CONSIDERED ON
 THEIR MERITS BUT MUST BE
 LOCATED AT LEAST 10 KILOMETRES
 FROM ANY EXISTING DWELLING.

(c) AUSTRALIAN COMPANIES
 TO BE USED FOR ALL
 DESIGN, MANUFACTURE AND INSTALLATION
 WORKS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST.