

Wuillemin Fishing Co P/L

To-
The Committee Secretary,
Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications.
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

My name is _____ and have been involved in the Western Australian Rock Lobster Fishery since 1969, fishing for Lobsters out of Jurien Bay. Jurien Bay is central between Fremantle and Geraldton. In my 55 years involvement, I have been 7 years as a Director on the West Australian Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC) and numerous other committees to do with environment, fishing and lobster.

Over the past years, as Fishermen, we have together with the West Australian Fisheries Department Research team made many changes to enhance our Fishery, protect many fish species, including whales and Seals, to protect and enhance our environmental impact on our fishing grounds.

It disturbs me to think that all of our years of very hard work and dedication can be totally destroyed in a few years with this ridiculous notion that Ocean Wind Farms will save the planet. The West Australian Coastline is a very unique and very different from many other coastlines. The warm current (The Leeuwin Current) that flows down along the coast, all the way from the North to Cape Leeuwin has made it a very rich environment with corals, sea ledges and a sea bottom not found anywhere else. The amount and range of sea life including corals, fish, sea grass and all forms of sea life exist through this very rich and lively habitat.

Just the construction of these wind turbines will cause massive degradation of our sea bottom, habitat and fish life.

To think that each wind turbine requires around 500 tonne of concrete, a 500 meter exclusion zone and then to join them all together, thousands of kilometers of electrical cable that will be buried under the sea bottom which will be ripped apart and destroyed.

The ocean is an extremely harsh environment on man made structures. Our West Coast with high winds from all directions and huge swells can make this much worse. I understand that on land a wind turbine's life expectancy is 20 to 25 years. But on the ocean that number comes down to 10 years and on top of that they need constant maintenance and can often release hundreds of liters of oil into the ocean environment on breakdown.

Once up and running the Electromagnetic Fields from the cables joining the turbines together and then the Wind Farms to the coast, will destroy any and all living sea creature within a certain distance from those cables.

This could totally destroy our Rock Lobster fishery. Lobsters migrate to deep water during November/December and release their eggs into the Leeuwin Current until they return as Puerulus (miniature Lobsters). The Leeuwin Current then brings them back to the inside ground and habitat where they thrive and grow to full grown Lobsters. The Electromagnetic Fields would completely destroy this life cycle and destroy our fishery within several years.

I am told that there will also be a very obverse effect on the reproduction and migration of Humpback Whales. This is also something that the Rock Lobster Industry has worked very hard at for many years. To improve our fishing habits and fishing gear as to NOT have any impact or adverse effect on their reproduction and migration.

In all the hype I have heard from Politicians and others on "Australia going to Net Zero", it doesn't appear that anyone is really looking at the actual cost to the environment and the actual cost in dollars to the Australian people.

Questions.....

*What is the actual cost to put in a single Wind Turbine in the ocean??

*What is the actual cost of running thousands of Kilometers of underground electrical cable, digging up many kilometers of reef to run the cable and then building thousands of Kilometers of transmission lines on land??

*What is the cost to maintain all of this infrastructure, noting that each turbine only has a life expectancy of 10 years???

*Who bears the cost of removing old turbines when their life span has come to an end. And how much would that cost??

*How do they remove a 500 tonne block of cement from the bottom of the ocean. And if they did how much more damage will be done to the ocean bottom, habitat and sea life??

A total fallacy! ..Those that are proposing this idea of Ocean Wind Farms as being Green, Clean and produce cheap power to allow Australia closer to "Net Zero", do not appear to have any idea of the true facts and cost. From all the discussions, media announcements etc through this whole campaign I have not heard anyone mention what the effects are to the ocean environment and habitats.

Ocean Wind Farms are anything but Green, Clean and will never produce cheap power.

Wind Farms will ruin many West Australian sustainable Fisheries for both Commercial and Recreational Fishermen. It will also have devastating effects on many of the WA Coastal Towns that were born from Commercial Fishing and now exist with the Commercial sector, the Recreational sector and of course many Tourism Operators.

Regards

21st July 2024.