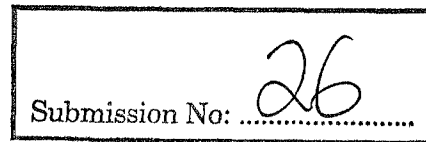


**From:** Jim Litchfield  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 June 2007 3:53 PM  
**To:** Committee, ISR (REPS)  
**Subject:** Renewable Energy in Australia



The Committee Secretary  
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Industry Resources  
Parliament House  
Canberra

Dear Sir/Madam,  
I write with regard to renewable energy with particular reference to wind power.

Wind turbines:

- **Create community division** - the prospect of wind turbines in our community has caused a great deal of acrimony and division in a previously very harmonious communities
- **Vastly change the nature of landscapes** - the dominant feature of a landscape where wind turbines exist is industrial, not natural. Wind turbines ruin landscapes.
- **Reduce property values** - landholders in proximity to wind turbines lose value. This is fact, not as AUSWEA suggests, "no evidence to date." Ask any property valuers and real estate agents in affected areas.
- **Have limited application** - the need to place wind turbines in windy areas close to existing high voltage transmission lines make their application to Australia very small. In addition, the transmission lines in Australia are low capacity by international standards and therefore often cannot utilize additional power from wind without a major upgrade. They produce minimal amounts of power in the whole scheme of things.
- **An old technology** - wind turbines have been around for many years, efficiency improvements are only incremental and they are quickly becoming superceded by new technology.

Solar power is the option with the most promise:

- **Broad Community Acceptance** - there is no opposition to solar power.
- **Rapidly Developing Technology** - solar power is developing rapidly, barely a weeks passes without a new development involving solar power coming to the fore.
- **Low cost** - sliver cell technology developed by the ANU has markedly reduced the cost of solar to a point where it is now cheaper than wind. A share of sliver cell technology should be purchased by the government and in a joint venture with a low cost producer either in Australia or overseas developed as a matter of urgency such that low cost panels are placed on as many houses as possible in as short a time as possible. Government subsidies should be introduced until the unit costs fall through scale of production and competition.
- **A huge solar resource** - Australia has an enormous solar resource. Sure, we can put in place a mix of solar and wind or we can simply put in more solar. There is nothing to be gained by having 2 different renewable energy sources when one will do what we want. The problem is not lack of diversity, it is lack of volume. And as opposed to wind where its application is restricted, solar can be put just about anywhere. And sliver cells work on cloudy days too.

Lets get away from the problems of wind and embrace renewables such as solar and geothermal that do not result in widespread antagonism in local communities. We don't need to do this to achieve our goals. Read the Princeton work and it becomes obvious. What is needed is commitment to renewable energy, not diversity in how we produce it.

Regards,

13/06/2007

Jim Litchfield  
REAL Monaro - Reduced Emissions and Landscape for Monaro

13/06/2007

*[Faint handwritten signature]*  
JIM LITCHFIELD