

From: Janine Hannan
Sent: Tuesday, 5 June 2007 3:20 PM
To: Committee, ISR (REPS)
Subject: Submission re the development of the non-fossil fuel energy industry in Australia

Submission No:9.....

To the Committee Secretariat

Dear Sir,

I am making a submission to you regarding the development of the non-fossil fuel energy industry in Australia; Case study into selected renewable energy sectors. I am very passionate about the fact that I believe that wind energy has no future in rural Australia, except whereby it does not impact on the local community in a detrimental way.

I attended a Landscape Assessment for Windfarms Creating Consistency, Community Open Forum. I also made a submission to Auswind stating my objections. I came away from that meeting with the sense that people in the city do not care where the windtowers are placed, as long as they are not in their line of sight and that they are not in areas of significance such as the Blue Mountains, the Botanic Gardens etc.

My objections to wind energy are on the basis that it is not a viable source of energy, the wind is very fickle and even though the wind energy advocates come out with ridiculous statements such as "it can power 500,000 homes" that may be the case if the wind turbines were turning 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Clearly this is not the case. Wind energy can never replace base load power such as coal or gas fired power stations can provide. The only non-fossil fuel I can see that will do this is nuclear power, it has the capacity for base load power and is a clean and green alternative to wind or solar, which is also can not be utilised 24/7.

There are a number of other objections to windpower, including the fact that they kill birds of prey. Also of great concern is the fact that they catch fire and are extremely difficult to put out. On 22 Jan 2006 at Lake Bonney Wind Farm in South Australia, a fire burning 70 metres above the ground was not approachable to firefighters. Up to 400 metres away, they were showered with pieces of aluminium, oil and fibreglass as they battled grass fires. It was possible the automatic brake on the 40 metre long blade could fail letting it rotate while burning. The fire cost \$3 million. (CFA Volunteer Volume 114 2006) This is a real concern in our drought stricken state.

We have had personal experience with a proposed windfarm, Crookwell 2, that has been approved by the Department of Planning, and our back boundary is almost adjacent to this property. Our first experience was when the developers had an "information night" in Crookwell, (complete with butchers paper and crayons) to inform us, in our ignorance, how wonderful these windfarms were. We were only told about this windfarm after the DA had been lodged with the Department of Planning, which only added to our frustration as we then had a very short time in which to make our objections to the Dept. We were left wondering why, if these windfarms are supposed to be so wonderful, was there so much secrecy surrounding it?

We were informed in June 2005 that the development had been approved and since then no work has been started, we have been left in limbo, not able to get on with our lives, wondering what the future holds. We understand there was an EIS done, we later found out how flawed it was, but we have had no way fighting any of this as litigation costs are prohibitive. Our property will be devalued by many millions of dollars if this windfarm goes ahead, we are not the only ones with these problems, other neighbours of the proposed windfarm will be surrounded by these massive industrial structures and have no redress with either the land owner or the developer.

Another objection to wind energy is that the towers have to be anchored to the earth and each tower requires at least 1000 tonnes of cement in the ground. This means in the case of Crookwell 2, 46,000 tonnes of cement will be used, this creates 46,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions. Multiply this by all the proposed windfarms in the state and massive amounts of CO2 will be released into the atmosphere. These definitely are not clean and green.

There has been no hydrology studies done in the area in regards to this problem, we do not know how this will affect the ground water and there are a lot of farms in this area that rely on bore water.

I believe much more study into the affects of windfarms on the environment, landscape and community should be done. To date there has been minimal input by the community.

With regards to wave, tidal, bioenergy and hydrogen I cannot comment as I have no knowledge of these energy sources, but I have heard very good things regarding geothermal energy. I have had plenty to do with windpower and in my opinion it is a waste of money and there needs to be more study done into other alternative sources before rushing willy nilly into wind energy.

Yours Sincerely
Mrs Janine Hannan

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