

From : Alasdair Stuart

Subject : Social and Environmental Impacts of NOT investing in Wind Farms

I think the Enquiry should also give some thought to the social impact of NOT investing in Wind Power.

One aspect of the Climate Change debate that receives scant press coverage is the possibility of Extreme Climate Change. Consider just one aspect –rise in sea levels. Current projections by the IPCC are less than 1m by 2100.

There is a real possibility of a 12m rise if major ice sheets in Greenland and West Antarctica are destabilised.

I will now concentrate on one small area of Australia – the mouth of the Shoalhaven river

which is a wide lush flood plain much of is less than 5m above sea level. The threat of inundation here will lead to abandonment of over a 100 sq km of very productive land . The small seaside town of Culburra Beach will be reduced to coastal island with major loss of real estate probably about 1000 houses.

In one small corner of Australia we are talking about 500 Million dollars of loss to home owners and the trauma of relocation. A recent flood event in Queensland has lead to a few hundred people needing to relocate and rebuild there homes, What you need to imagine is an impact like this , thousands of places on the Australian coast.

The time scale for irreversible Climate Change is now very short.

Without vigorous development of the most affordable , quickly deployable forms of Renewal energy ,

Australia faces huge dislocation and costs that dwarf all earlier disasters.