

Senate inquiry into windfarms

I write to the senate enquiry to express my concerns about various aspects of the windfarms industry. Most notably the way in which the wind industry treats residents signing turbine leases, the residents around the turbines and the general public.

My experience with windfarms stems from a proposal that I was offered to be part of, along with other landholders in the area.

The company offering turbines appeared to know very little of their effects, efficiency or anything else! The lease we would have had to sign would have placed all legal liability on us should problems arise, including fire, noise and dismantling at the end of the lease. I believe the wind company headed by now Hawthorn football club director Andrew Newbold knew of these problems and included these get out clauses for good reason on their behalf.

The windfarm industry takes away from those it imposes itself on. The losses suffered from having a windfarm even proposed on or next to your land in a dollar value are extreme.

Real estate values plummet, let's face it no one wants to live next to a wind farm, the experience from operating wind farms is not one that brings buyers knocking down the front door to make a offer. At a recent meeting in Ballan Victoria, a employee of Pacific Hydro, Mr Lane Crockett admitted he would not want to live close to one in front of a packed out local hall.

The wind industry must also address its "propaganda" campaign. The claims made in regard to the mitigation of coal and CO2 should be proven, as yet they have not and would seem far fetched. False information is rife. The power output of all windfarms should be published every 10 mins. The public deserve to see what they are getting for their money.

If actual results are published we will be able to see if the wind experiment is a worthwhile one, if power is being produced when needed and how reliable it is. Along side this the coal fired generators should also publish outputs so the 2 can be matched to see if the production of electricity from wind is effecting the use of coal.

Residents in rural areas are seemingly being used by city and town based green groups who push the wind agenda with sponsorships funded by the wind industry.

These groups claims such things as their is majority support for wind, that farmers should do their bit, that we need action on climate change. These groups attack rural citizens, trying to belittle them all in the name of money for their masters. The majority of farmers I know affected by wind proposals have planted thousands of trees through landcare, but have refused turbines due to their effects on the enviroment and neighbours.

These green groups are like the lap dogs of the wind industry, they claim to be "community" based, but in reality are nothing more than another voice coming from the inner city suburbs trying to weasel their way into a position of authority, at the expense of established and harmonious rural communities.

Groups such as Hepburn wind, Friends of the Earth, Breeze etc should be ignored as they have no thought for those effected by wind farm proposals, all they care for is money coming to them from the generous subsidies on offer under the seriously flawed MRET scheme.

The way the electricity generated from windfarms is sold should be examined closely, the public is in uproar due to rising costs, the MRET scheme is a licence to print money for the wind industry and the way it operates must be changed.

Currently electricity generated in off peak times is paid the same through the REC's as if it was generated at peak time. There is no reason why this power should be subsidised at all, it is unreliable and doing nothing to halt the use of coal or gas.

Renewable energy if it can relied on is a great asset, in the current climate hydro power should be considered to be the most useful, wind is a long way behind in all aspects of generation despite what the desperados in the wind industry will spin to anyone silly enough to listen to them.