



Granite Boulders Landscape Guardians

Monday, October 25, 2010

The Chairman ACCC
GPO Box 520
Melbourne 3000

Dear Sir,

I enclose a brochure sent to the residents in our area with respect to a proposed wind farm to be built and operated by Transfield Services. Under the heading "The project" it states that the proposal "has the potential to supply renewable electricity equivalent to the needs of approximately 70,000 Victorian homes.

No doubt the wording chosen by Transfield has been carefully assessed as to its accuracy, however in my opinion it gives a false impression to the reader of its potential to supply power on a continuous basis to 70,000 homes which is incorrect.

Wind farms only produce power when the wind blows, the requirements for continuous back up power is required at all times; this is never mentioned. The emotive "feel good" impression that this advertising brings to readers is done on purpose to gain residents support by building into to their minds a guilt factor if it is not supported.

If the true statement is that wind farms require back up power when the wind does not blow, they should state this so as not to mislead. The public is being hoodwinked into believing that support for this type of renewable energy is a good and worthy cause which it would be if it did not require an equivalent amount of power being generated continuously in reserve, which automatically negates what they are saying.

The impression that wind power is 100% green is the underlying message is incorrect, for the back up power that is generated by coal or natural gas is not green. Natural gas which has a much smaller carbon footprint than coal and could be used as a back up for wind but is penalized by the government.

I look forward to your response,

Sincerely,

David Maughan

B.Arch. Melb. ARAIA
maughandh@optusnet.com.au



PO Box 35, Tooborac. Vic. 3522.
Ph: 0409496576 email: graniteboulders@gmail.com



DAVID MAUGHAN
ARCHITECT

Wednesday, December 08, 2010

Emma Corvisy
Correspondence Officer
ACCC Infocentre
GPO Box 3131
Canberra
ACT 2601

Your reference 1029664

Dear Madam,

I refer to your letter of the 1st December 2010. In your third paragraph you state that, "Transfield has omitted from this brochure essential information pertaining to other non-renewable power sources that are required to generate power when there is insufficient wind to do so".

What I meant to convey to you in my letter of the 3rd November 2010 is the fact that when the wind does not blow the wind industry fails to explain that to keep the power across the network running and to avoid black outs they need to rely on power generated not by other renewables but by gas turbines or coal fired power stations (base load) that must keep running continually to back up the wind turbines as they cannot just be switched on or off readily. To leave this important point out, of the wind energy industry's advertising is very misleading.

Supposedly the very thing they purport to replace in fact requires this other source of energy notably gas or coal to keep the system going.

It is not other renewables generally that can do this on the scale that is required when the turbines are becalmed. If the public were made aware of this misleading advertising they might realise that wind turbines do not replace coal or gas generators but in fact require extra generators to be built to back up the wind turbines when they are not working.

Thank you for your help,

Sincerely,

David Maughan.