

## VALLEY of the WINDS WIND FARM IPC PRESENTATION

### HYPOCRISY, FIRES and FAIRNESS

Thank you. My name is Rick Campbell and I am a farmer from Gulgong.

My presentation today is about hypocrisy, fires and fairness.

Now if someone suggested building a nuclear power plant in a known bad earthquake zone it would be dismissed as being insane.

Yet here we are considering the building of renewable energy projects and associated power lines, which are acknowledged to cause fires, in a known bad bushfire zone. In assessing the suitability of the CWO-REZ for renewable energy projects the AEMO determined that this zone has a bushfire rating of E. This rating is the worst available on a scale from A to E.

How catastrophic can bushfires caused by power lines be? In the Victorian Black Saturday bushfires of 2009 there were 11 major fires with 6 of those fires caused by power lines. There were 173 deaths with 159 of those deaths attributed to the 6 power line fires.

Not good; but it gets worse. If the predictions of climate change are correct then the extreme weather events that precipitated the Victorian fires will become much more common.

This means that the ability to control these fires will be of paramount importance. But water cannot be used on lithium battery fires; it is too dangerous for fire crews to access fires within a solar farm and the presence of wind turbines and power lines restricts the use of aerial water bombing for fire control.

**So what is more insane? Building nuclear power plants in earthquake zones or building renewable energy projects in the CWO-REZ?**

## **FAIRNESS**

**Can anyone tell me why coastal residents are entitled to a 20km setback from wind turbines, but country residents are expected to accept a setback of only 2km? Is it because people in the CWO-REZ are considered to be a minority group whose rights and votes can be ignored?**

**Let's call this what it is. This is blatant discrimination! And this from a government who should be stamping out discrimination rather than fostering its implementation.**

**The argument will be that since offshore wind is under Commonwealth jurisdiction and onshore wind is under State jurisdiction different standards can be applied. But without Commonwealth funding (eg CIS) none of these projects would proceed. This is akin to the Commonwealth saying that they oppose the death penalty but they are prepared to provide funding to build the gallows.**

## **BOTTOM LINE**

**If the Panel approves this project then you will be putting country people's lives and property at risk. You also would be condoning discrimination against them. In the future you should be prepared that you may be called upon to justify this decision before a coronial enquiry.**