

TIM

MR CLAIRMAN.
SUBMISSION RE PROPOSED POTTINGER WIND FARM SOUTH OF HAY.

In a prior time in my life I was a federal politician where on occasion one had to decide what they believed was good for sections of the community they represented and what was good for Australia. Sometimes these did not coincide. This may not have suited some of my constituents. Although no longer in that situation as a Federal Representative, having once represented Hay I feel I am again in a position that is counter to a number of people in the area and I believe I am coming down on the side of the future for Australia.

The whole concept of Net Zero by 2050 will prove to be a nightmare for our nation when we are to spend a reported probably more than a trillion dollars on achieving it, no one including the government knows just how much. This expenditure along with other handouts by the government will I believe create a severe financial crisis and despite the doubtful rhetoric of the nations leadership we will still not have a reliable power source. We are doing this when China, to name one country that is belligerent toward us presently provides 30% of world carbon emissions, and despite building solar and wind farms is reputedly building two coal fired power stations per week. How much Australian coal is used in this enterprise I am not sure. They are also constructing a myriad of Nuclear Power Stations. The leadership knows that it has to have a reliable power source which over the decades has greatly lifted the standard of living of its people. A cheap reliable power system has enabled them to have the largest army and navy in the world thus challenging the United States. Without a reliable, cheap power source, within a short while there would be revolution within their country. This means that China, like India and Russia and other major polluters who have not signed up to The Paris Accord, will not stop burning coal and gas until a new cheaper source of power becomes available. At the moment Nuclear power is their way to reliability while we as a nation continue to potter along with a nightmare plan which makes China, a potential enemy, richer whilst we become a mendicant state.

The Pottinger development along with many others in the pipeline presently aids and abets this situation, with large companies such as AGL and Someva heavily subsidised by Federal and State Governments handing out taxpayer money to get the local populations on side. This is not a way of providing cheap power but providing expensive power at the wider taxpayers expense. If the subsidies were not available I doubt if there would be a Solar Industrial Complex (S.I.C.) in existence. One thing that troubles me is that when I was a Federal Member I represented many farmers and graziers. Owning their properties they nearly all to a man or woman reiterated that they were merely custodians of the land and were deeply concerned with conservation of their property. That appears to have changed and now they welcome developers to construct Solar Industrial Complexes (S.I.C.'s) on their land destroying landscapes and disturbing native flora and fauna. In this case1066

hectares. I can understand that the money is too good to refuse, particularly for a struggling farmer. Like many, I would probably take the same action and therefore the only way to stop this destruction is by legislation that prohibits these large developments. This will not occur under present governments. One of the main concerns is that the present situation causes dissension amongst adjoining or close neighbors and in some cases I have seen where once good friends no longer talk to each other.

Hay and the Riverina are renowned in Australian poetry, song and ^{Literature} stories and many people travel to the area surrounding Hay to view the saltbush plains and sunsets etc. I cannot imagine travelling to the region to view wind turbines and the associated aerial cables. Because of the back lash of the coastal population against Windfarms being located offshore and ^{increasing} construction and maintenance costs I doubt that many will be constructed. This means that more of these installations will be located inland. Already it is estimated that to obtain Net Zero in Victoria one fifth to one seventh of Victoria will be covered by S.I.C's. which is inconceivable. It is anyone's guess what will occur in N.S.W.

I have read the environmental report for the Pottinger project particularly in the decommissioning of these complexes in the future which may occur as it has with the Codrington Wind Farm only twenty five years old since its construction near Port Fairy. The problem they still face is what to do with the unrecyclable large blades. I note that the developers of Pottinger in another location have decommissioned some wind turbines and re-used others from the same site. What is the present location of the no longer required blades? If I read correctly the Corrington blades disposal is still a problem and in the case of Pottinger 25 years later, as Corrington must have 25 years ago, are hoping that over the coming years new materials will emerge that can allow them to be recycled. Sounds a bit like the Hydrogen Green Energy story. It is my hope that whatever happens, the Pottinger developers bear the costs and not Local Government in other words the rate payers, in getting rid of this detritus. It is estimated that by the year 2034 15,000 tonnes of composite waste will be accumulated.

The irony of this project along with many other similar ones, is that rural Australia is carrying the total burden supported by a relatively few subsidised handouts aimed at keeping the local population happy. The literature placed in the public arena states that the power generated will serve 830,000 homes with clean affordable power. Any thinker would know affordable power is a misnomer and most of these ^{served} houses will be in the capital cities whose populations would not even know where Hay is located or of the mess being located in its vicinity. Then we have 2, 000 construction jobs, many fly or drive in and out with some hut accommodation provided I should imagine. Having seen this mainly in mining areas in

MURRUMBIDGE

the short term it may provide some income but in the long term how does this benefit the area?

When Australia faces many immediate problems such as the lack of even a moderate defence deterrent, a faltering health system, an education system that needs help, a shortage of housing and even a lack of suitable communication systems particularly in some rural areas, to provide tax payers money for an unreliable power system that will not be able to power our blast furnaces; our manufacturing industries; our business houses and most importantly at this time in our history will restrict our defence capability it is a farce of the highest order. I hope Australia wakes up before it is too late. Madam Chair I am an old man and soon none of this will affect me personally. However I do fear for my progeny in what they will have to face in the future if Australia continues on its present path in regard to energy production. Madam Chair I prophesy that when politicians wake up to the fact that we now live in the Nuclear Age and if we do not wish to use fossil fuels as a Cheap base energy supplier Nuclear energy is the only way to go as 33 nations throughout the world are already aware of.

~~MR. CHARMAN~~
Thankyou Madam Chair and the committee for providing me the opportunity to speak and although I know my small contribution will be like whistling in the wind it at least allows me to make a contribution.

Noel Hicks. A. M.

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