

Dear Panel,
Attached is my submission.

Canberra ACT 2601 Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000;

Dear Panel;

An application is in progress; for wind turbines to be placed on the coast at Wonthaggi. Therefore my submission is based on the problems; that have been encountered by others in areas where turbines have been placed and what I believe will be the case here in Wonthaggi.

Summary of Opinion by Alan Moran & Associates 19 Ivy Street Prahran 3181 and part-time Director; Deregulation Unit; Institute of Public Affairs. This opinion related to the Toora turbines.;

The wind farm will produce energy in a highly uneconomic manner. Typically; wind produces energy at a cost of at least \$90 per MWh. This is more than four times the present pool price and its value is further reduced by the episodic nature of its availability.

The wind farm is commercially viable only because it is being subsidized by the Queensland taxpayer and is to be subsidized prospectively by the Commonwealth Government's promotion of an additional 2% of energy to be provided by designated renewable sources. End of opinion.

None of this information has appeared in our local paper; instead press releases from the turbine company state that 6 turbines will produce enough electricity to supply 6000 thousand homes in Wonthaggi. No one is told what the price of electricity will be in the future when subsidies are removed. Honesty and integrity is missing.

Toora has a divided community where friendships of years; are no longer and people are selling up even at a loss; just to move away. If this were allowed to happen in our town it would be sad indeed. The 'Act at the micro-perspective is not working as people's lives have been changed detrimentally.;

Wetlands are precious and becoming scarce. Why; to take on one environmental problem would another be threatened? This is the case in Wonthaggi where bird-attracting wetlands planted out over years by the local community; adjoin the proposed turbine site.;

Europeans who visit my B&B find our coastline breathtakingly beautiful. Why not modify the Act to place turbines in areas; which are less sensitive.

Our foreign debt will be enormous with the importation of all this technology, when Australians are producing alternatives to fossil fuel usage. Again we have this cringe about our own produce. Instead of promoting local technology we make it hard for inventers.

The massive solar potential requires backing.

.Eco tourism must become huge in Australia with the decline of open space in the developed world. People have the resources to travel but not to areas where turbines dominate the landscape.; This is not about not wanting change but rather protecting what is precious. There are places for turbines that will not affect people's lives and have less impact on the environment; why not use them?

In our town; a straw count found not a person in favour of fossil fuel but at the same time no one in favour of turbines on the coast.; When looking at the Act could some research be done on its effects on people's lives and values?

I remain yours sincerely;

Elizabeth Banks