

## How Much Sulfur Hexafluoride (SF6) to be Installed at Dinawan, Bullawah and Walcha?

Can Planning Minister Paul Scully guarantee that almost five hundred 300-metre-high wind turbines proposed at Dinawan and Bullawah for the Riverina and at Walcha in the Northern Tablelands will be free of serious environmental consequences if fast track approved in his recently announced No-appeal Public Hearing?

In fact, he can't because there is a legally negligent lack of diligent independence by public authorities like the IPCN and financial promoters in conducting environmental risk research in hot, dry Australia.

What are the effects on production of food and fibre by our farming community?

Submissions 53 to the Senate Inquiry into Energy of December 2024 and to the cross-border Warracknabeal Victorian Planning Panel meeting on December 9 (46 and 150), 2025 show the turbulent wake of wind turbines is very likely drying landscapes, possibly increasing bushfire intensity and there are serious questions to answer about long term environmental impacts of PFAS and Bis-Phenol A (BPA).

The Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI) recently drew attention to the need for prohibition of PFAS imports, recommending monitoring for long-lived PFAS used in turbine blades for tempering surfaces to limit corrosion of stressed longer blades.

Moreover, by 2027, both the EC and the UK intend to prohibit turbines lubricated internally with gaseous sulphur hexafluoride (SF6), 1 kilogram of which has greenhouse effects equivalent to 24.3 tonnes of carbon dioxide but a much longer lifetime of 3,200 years, so accumulating slowly from leakage.

It can also make toxic products if electrically arced.

Most turbines so far installed in Australia have at least 1 kg of SF6 and perhaps all of these should be dismantled now?

Mr Scully will also need to explain how these major Farrer Electorate installations and at Walcha will require farmers housing turbines to pay to clean up afterwards, just as our Premier, Chris Minns honestly explained recently about responsibility for decommissioning, possibly costing more than they will earn farmers leasing land while turbines operate.

**Ivan R. Kennedy**

**(Professor Emeritus in Agricultural & Environmental Chemistry, University of Sydney)**

**Ph: 0413071796**

**Email: [I.kennedyus@gmail.com](mailto:I.kennedyus@gmail.com)**