

Submission: Winterbourne Wind Farm

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As a resident of the New England whose family, health, safety, lifestyle and lifetime savings are under threat by non-renewable factory installations close to our home, I object vehemently to the destruction of this region's environment, and the deliberate social destabilisation that these industrial plants are responsible for.

There is no study on earth that can explain away, or compensate for the the sheer size and destruction of this callously dubbed "renewable" project.

From the EIS:

- *The wind farm site comprises **315 freehold landholdings, one Crown land parcel, and Crown land paper roads, covering approximately 22,285 hectares (ha) (Project Area).** The Project Area includes the main wind farm area and a transmission line area which extends northwest from the wind farm for **approximately 23 km.** The transmission line area comprises a 60 m easement corridor extending from the wind farm and crossing the Salisbury Plains. Upgrades to the public road network are located outside the Project Area. **The Development Footprint of the Project covers 581.41 ha.***

From the EIS:

- *S.3 Project Justification*
*Australia and the world are in the process of transitioning from traditional fossil fuel energy generation. Wind energy is a clean and inexhaustible resource that generates zero pollution or carbon emissions **during operation** (U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2021).*

Comment: there is nothing clean about the tonnes of minerals that are required in the construction of the components; the footprint of the tonnes of concrete required to install them, nor the energy required to transport them across the globe, after they are built using the coal Australia is not allowed to use for energy. This is a disingenuous statement that also does not include the reality of the oil needed to run the turbines or the SF6, one of the world's most dangerous manmade substances, used in the switchgear.

While wind may be inexhaustible, although intermittent, the components of this factory are expensive, unable to be recycled, polluting, prone to malfunction and have a short life cycle.

- **Wind energy is now cheaper than new generation from coal and natural gas, and together with solar and other renewable energy projects, wind energy is helping to drive down the cost of wholesale electricity** (CSIRO, 2021).

Comment: this is news to all Australian energy consumers who have watched their bills skyrocket as the (non) renewables have been added to the grid. This is not correct in the real world – the only place that it matters.

Compared to traditional energy sources such as coal and gas, wind farms:

- *Require no invasive mining, extraction or burning of fossil fuels;*

See comment above – simply incorrect and disingenuous.

- *Emit no greenhouse gas during operations;*

See comment above – simply not true.

- *Emit no fine particle pollution, sulphur dioxide, or oxides of nitrogen;*

Comment: There is copious evidence of fine particle pollution and solid pollution across the globe which is interfering with harvest of crops, washing up on beaches (USA) and fibreglass shards being distributed near turbines, causing danger warnings to farmers (Victoria, Aus).

and

- *Typically offset all emissions generated across the turbine life cycle in the first year of plant operation* (Vestas, 2021).

Comment: this comment from the proponent would need thorough investigation and must include all emissions from mining and construction of components; transport of the components; loss of forests and other emission reducing land features; ongoing emissions associated with running including oil, petrol, SF6 and any other associated substances; and for this statement to be independently verified for it to hold any veracity whatsoever.

The Project Justification provides no justification at all for this taxpayer funded wealth transfer to a Dutch company, and its majority USA, UK & Danish shareholders. That our government is entertaining this project is an insult to Australians.

For the local population this blight on the landscape with forever consequences and pollution for the local agriculture industry, flora and fauna this is a disaster.

For the landowners where decommissioning is not guaranteed this proposal could be the end of generational farming, and property ownership.

For Australia this degradation of the landscape, flora and fauna coupled with the loss to food security this is unconscionable.

Please try and understand the danger and cost of these developments, as the damage they will cause may never be undone, and no amount of money will ever change that.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Karen Fox.