

MR. Toby PHILIP

Senior Planning Officer

NSW Department of Planning



Ref: Submission with regards to the Flyers Creek Wind Farm (APPLICATION MP08-0252)

Dear Mr. Philip,

I STRONGLY OBJECT TO THE FLYERS CREEK WIND FARM APPLICATION

HERE ARE SOME OF MY REASONS WELL MANY REASONS

- THE HEALTH ISSUES WHICH EFFECT THE ELDELY ANDTHE VERY YOUNG AND THIS WIND
- FARM IS LESS THEN TWO KILLOMETERS FROM THE ERROWANBANG SCHOOL WHERE AT LEAST EIGHTY NINE CHILDREN ATTEND. SO WHY ARE THEY SITUATED NEAR A JUINOR SCHOOL?
-
- THE NOISE, CAN YOU HONESTLY TELL ME THERE IS NO NOISE?
- POLLUTION
- HOUSE DEVAULES, CAN'T GET INSURANCE OR SELL YOUR HOUSE. I WONDER WHY, CAN YOU EXPLAIN THIS TO ME?
- THE COMMUNITY BROKEN UP AND DIVIDED. WHAT A TERRIBLE THING TO HAPPEN.
- THE HEARTBREAK THAT PEOPLE ARE GOING THROUGH. IS THIS RIGHT?
- WHY IN OTHER COUNTRIES THEY ARE REJECTED ON VISABILTY. MY FAMILY IS GOING TO BE LOOKING AT FORTY OF THESE TERRIBLE MONSTERS. WOULD YOU OR ANY OF YOUR FAMILY OR FOR THAT MATTER ANY SYDNEY PEOPLE NO THEY WOULDN'T, AS YOU WOULD NOT DARE TO EVEN THINK OF PUTTING THESE TERRIBLE MONSTERS UP IN SYDNEY SO WHY ARE WE ANY DIFFERENT IN THE RUAL AREAS?
- WHY HAVE THE NOISE LEVELS NOT BEEN REALEASED BY THIS COMPANY?
- CAN YOU AS THE SEINOR PLANNING OFFICER EXPLAIN WHY SO MUCH DECEIT AND UNDER HANDNESS HAS GONE ON?
- CAN YOU AS THE PLANNING OFFICER EXPLAIN AS TO WHY SO MANY LIES ARE TOLD ABOUT THESE TERRIBLE MONSTERS AND THEIR EFFECT ON HEALTH?

- YOU AS OUR SENIOR PLANNING OFFICER ARE THERE TO PROTECT US SO WHY ARE YOU NOT DOING THIS?
- YOU TALK ABOUT SAVING THE Co2. WHAT ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF CONCRETE GOING INTO THIS PROJECT IT BEGGERS BELIEF. SO CAN YOU PLEASE EXPLAIN THIS?
- THE EFFECTS ON HEALTH HAVE BEEN OUT THERE SINCE 2006. SO YOU AS THE SENIOR PLANNING OFFICER SHOULD KNOW ALL THIS. SO WHY IS IT BEING IGNORED BY YOUR SELF?
- HOW IN GODS GIVEN NAME CAN INIFGEN SAY THERE IS NO NOISE SURELY PEOPLE IN ALL THE OTHER COUNTRIES ARE NOT TELLING LIES ABOUT THE NOISE, BUT WE KNOW WHO IS.? WOULD YOU OR MR UPSON SWOP HOUSES FOR A YEAR? THEN LET'S SEE WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY THEN.
- SOME FARMERS HAVE BEEN HERE FOUR GENERATIONS HOW DO THINK THEY ARE FEELING?
- WHILE IN SCOTLAND I WENT TO AN OPEN DAY SO I COULD SEE FOR MYSELF HOW THEY MANAGED THEIR OPEN DAY. WHEN I EXPLAINED TO THE COUNCILORS, YES WHO ARE INVOLVED AS TO WHAT IS GOING ON IN THEIR COMMUNITY THEY WERE SHOCKED THAT THERE IS NO BUFFER ZONE NO CONTACT WITH ITS PEOPLE ON THE LAND AND THEIR VISABILTY. I ALSO SPOKE TO AN ENGINEER WHO TOLD ME WE ARE VICTIMS OF POOR MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING. SO COULD YOU PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY?
- DO YOU KNOW AS MUCH AS I DO ABOUT THESE TERRIBLE MONSTERS I DOUBLT IT.? YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOUR SELVES IN SYDNEY FOR ALLOWING THESE PRIVATE COMPINES TO MAKE MONEY OUT OF THE TAX PAYERS, AND TO MAKE PEOPLES LIVES A MISERY, ITS TORTURE.
- I AM NOT A WELL WOMAN BUT BELIEVE ME I WILL SUE THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE ILL HEALTH I WILL SUFFER AND HAVING TO LEAVE MY HOME.
- BUT LIKE THE AUSSIES SAY IT'S NOT IN MY BACK YARD SO WHY SHOULD I BE BOTHERED WELL YOU SHOULD BE BELIEVE ME. WELL MR PHILIP I HOPE YOU CAN SLEEP WELL AT NIGHT, BECAUSE WE WON'T BELIEVE ME.

- I AM NOT SAYING EVERY ONE WILL GET SICK BUT I KNOW IT WILL EFFECT ME IN RELATION TO THE MEDICAL PROBLEMS I ALREADY HAVE.
- DO HOPE YOU FIND THIS INTERESTING READING! BUT YOU CAN RELY ON IT BEING THE TRUTH.
- EVEN THE NRDC NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL SAY THAT TURBINES SHOULD BE SITED CAREFULLY TO MINAMUSE EFFECTS ON THE WILDLIFE AND THE LANDSCAPE AND ALSO THE TRANMISSION SYSTEMS.
- WHY NOT GO FOR NUCLEAR ENGERY SEEING AS MISS GILLARD THIKS ITS OK TO SELL TO INDIA.
- HAVE PUT SOME MATERAIL IN FOR YOU TO READ UP ON SO THAT YOU WILL NOT MAKE A HUGE MISTAKE IN PASSING THIS TERRIBLE PROJECT.
- YOU MR PHILIP HAVE OUR FUTURE AND THE WIDLIFE FUTURE IN YOUR HANDS. PLEASE MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION FOR US ALL PLEASE DON'T BE INFLUENCED BY OTHER PEOPLE WHO KNOW WHAT THEY ARE DOING IS WRONG AS YOU YOUR SELF KNOW IT IS WRONG FOR AUSTRALIA TO BE MADE INTO AN UGLY COUNTRY.
- THIS HOME IS FOR OUR CHILDREN AND GRANCHILDREN IT IS ALL WE HAVE TO LEAVE THEM, IT IS THEIR INHERITANCE SURELY YOU WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE YOUR HOUSE UNSELLABLE OR DEVULED? SURELY MY CHILDREN SHOULD BE REASSURED OF THEIR INHERITANCE.
- WHY JUST THIS WEEK WE HEAR OF ANOTHER TURBINE IN SCOTLAND BLOWING UP WITH THE GALES. I DON'T NEED TO READ THE PAPERS AS MY SISTER LIVES IN SCOTLAND SO I GET IT FIRST HAND, AND IT'S THE TRUTH.
- WHY WOULD YOU PUT YOUR FARMERS THROUGH ALL THIS? YOU NEED THEM FOR OUR FOOD SUPPLY MANY WILL START WALKING AWAY AS THEY HAVE BEEN LET DOWN BY A FEW GREEDY PEOPLE WHO SOLD THEIR COMMUNITY OUT TO INFIGEN WHO ARE RUBBING THEIR HANDS TOGATHER WITH ALL THE MONEY THEY RECEIVE FROM THE GOVERNMENT. THE ONLY PEOPLE MAKING ANY MONEY OUT OF THIS IS INFIGEN AND THE FARMERS WHO SOLD US OUT. THEY CAN MOVE OUT TO WHERE EVER THEY WISH

AS THEY HAVE MONEY. I BELIEVE ONE FARMER IS DOING RENOVATIONS TO HIS HOUSE AND MOVING INTO TOWN HOW LUCKY IS HE!

- WELL MR PHILIP HOPE YOU READ THIS ALL VERY CAREFULLY AND THEN MAKE YOUR DECISION CAREFULLY!

- REGARDS

- MAUREEN CAMPBELL

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Maureen Campbell and John Foster, our first knowledge of the wind turbine farm, was back in late August or early September 2010. I had objected to a turbine being erected on a farm next door to where we live. I have to admit I wasn't aware of turbines till then just like many people within the area I was very ignorant of them. Back to where I left off with the wind turbine farm. I sent my letter of objection to the council. Sometime later I received a phone call asking if I would like a person to call round and explain wind turbines to Jon and myself so I said yes that would be great. My friend visiting rang her Daughter to come round so she could help if we needed it. The guy came to our home introduced himself as J Upson. He sat down and began explaining about turbines and how many there would be. At this point in time my heart started to beat very fast with the shock of what he was saying. I said excuse me but who are you? Are from the council? By this time I felt panic and fear. My friends Daughter tried to calm things down she started asking questions but really didn't get the answers that we needed to reassure us in fact he wasn't very forthcoming we were all very upset and we asked for his card which we eventually got from. We didn't hear anymore about this terrible project till 2010 when they had their open day. That is another story!

Maureen Campbell and John Foster

When I heard about turbine farm going up at Flyers Creek, I started to write letters and rally people round in the area. We had an open day which gave us no reassurance what so ever. There was a guy writing about turbines which he expects to be built on his land. So I decided to write a letter against the turbines which was also printed. Though there was no feedback even from the guy who wrote agreeing for the turbines.

At Christmas my partner and I with friends were invited to school for the children's end of year concert then buffet later, this was given by Cadis Mine. I don't drink any wine or fizzy drinks so I asked the girls serving food if I could get a coffee, she explained to me coffee machine had broken down. I met an English Lady we a conversation and I said to her I really need a cup of coffee and left it at that and went back to my friends, we were talking when this English lady came and said the school kitchen is being opened would I like to go and get a coffee, she then took me to the kitchen where many Ladies were getting a drink. While waiting to get my coffee I heard a male voice say are you Maureen Campbell I turned around and this man who I didn't know said you have defamed me, much to my surprise. I realized who he was and said are you Kim Masters? He said yes I asked him if it bothered him (me defaming him) He said no. I replied I have been waiting to meet you. I said something to him like how much you getting for having these monsters on your land! So he said how much do you have in the bank? I said do you really wish to know and he said yes? (The ladies in the back ground were nattering and wondering what we were talking about one said it's the turbines) So again I asked him if he really wished to know what I had in the bank, so I told him f... all. Then all the ladies ran out. Lots of things were said by both of us. I returned to my friends and they said you have been a way a long time! I said I've just been set up by the English Lady and accosted by Kim Masters. Have got to say if this is how they work by setting a lady up. They should be ashamed of themselves. I felt let down by these ladies and very upset by Kim Masters who is a bully as he needed the ladies present. This man doesn't care about his community what so ever.

Our house is for my children it is their inheritance. Is this what we become greedy people who only think about themselves? How sad it must be for farmers who have been for many generations. My Grandson loves this house why should I have to move so other people can make money at other people's expense. We love the peace, views and the surrounding area.

CAN INFIGEN GUARANTEE WE WONT HAVE NOISE?

Can you imagine looking at forty turbines each day every day because some man wants to sell his community out to Infigen. I bet you can't imagine what we are going through; I don't expect you to, that is the heartbreak we are going to have to live with, if this terrible project is passed. Our beautiful land spoilt by greed, yes it is our land the peoples land that don't get a say as to what is going on!

SHAME ON YOU ALL

Maureen Campbell

11:33

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*Before The Big Plus
I couldn't have written this*

Amanda from Holytown, in my own words.



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Chris Monk 
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Join Date: Sep
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Battle brewing as RSPB objects to Lewis wind farms

Battle brewing as RSPB objects to Lewis wind farms

Conservationists clash with developers

By Rob Edwards, Environment Editor, Sunday Herald

POWERFUL conservation groups and energy multinationals are about to be pitched into battle over plans for the world's biggest wind farm on the Isle of Lewis.

In an environmental clash to rival any that Scotland has seen, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and Scottish Natural Heritage will be trying to stop British Energy and AMEC erecting 234 massive wind turbines across 40 kilometres of bog around Stornoway.

For the conservationists, the plan is a disaster because it would wreck the habitat of thousands of endangered birds. For the developers, it is a money-spinner that will rejuvenate the local economy and help combat climate change.

It could be a long, fierce and expensive conflict. If Scottish ministers yield to pressure to hold a public inquiry, it could run for years, like the arguments over the superquarry on Harris and the funicular in the Cairngorms.

The Sunday Herald has learned that Lewis Windpower, a joint venture by British Energy and AMEC, is intending to submit a planning application for the £420 million scheme to the Scottish Executive within the next fortnight. The wind farm will be capable of producing a maximum of 700 megawatts of electricity, more than half the output of a modern nuclear power station.

British Energy runs eight nuclear power stations in the UK and has business interests in North America. AMEC is a £4.7 billion energy and industrial services corporation based in London and active in over 40 countries. Their plans for Lewis face opposition because some of the turbines will be sited on peatlands protected under European law. Most of the north end of Lewis has been designated a Special Protection Area (SPA) for birds because it is home to important populations of golden eagles, golden plovers, greenshanks, red-throated divers and dunlins.

"We believe that locating an industrial-scale wind farm in such a fragile and important location is inappropriate, and we will object in the strongest terms," said the director of RSPB Scotland, Stuart Housden.

"The damage to this important habitat, and the exceptionally large numbers of some of our scarcer breeding birds which depend on it, mean that we have no choice but to fight this development with vigour and determination through the planning process."

Stornoway Gazette, 19th February, 2004.

Pie in the Lewis sky?

THE WHOLE windfarm thing gets more and more confusing. Politicians and developers speak of fortunes to be made while others predict disappointment and disaster. The improvers tell us that these hundreds of huge turbines are environmentally-friendly and yet those same massive structures threaten our scenic moorlands as nothing else has ever done.

Please Read you will get the truth!

What is more surprising is the utter lack of proper discussion about this most sweeping of changes. People have taken sides while still knowing very little about the whole thing. Those who are for it take offence if any doubts are raised. The news from other countries does not fill us with confidence in this 'answer to all our ills'. Scholars in Germany have written a now famous paper called the Darmstadt Manifesto, challenging the economic and environmental effectiveness of windfarms, speaking of the 'industrial transformation of cultural landscapes which have evolved over centuries... More and more people are subjected to living unbearably close to machines of oppressive dimensions'.

Denmark is often quoted by backers of windfarms as a model, but their government has recently reduced subsidies drastically. Aase Madsen, the MP who chairs energy policy in the Danish Parliament is emphatic, 'For our industry it (wind-power) has been a terribly expensive disaster'. Niels Gram of the Danish Federation of Industries stated recently, "In green terms windmills are a mistake and economically they make no sense. Many of us thought wind was the 100 per cent solution for the future but we were wrong. In fact, taking all energy needs into account, it's only a three per cent solution."

We are being made to question whether wind energy is delivering what was promised. The chief economist of Eltra, Denmark's biggest electricity distributor Jytte Kaad Jensen pinpoints a startling situation, "In just a few years we've gone from some of the cheapest electricity in Europe to some of the most costly." So much for Denmark.

The late in the day full-hall meetings in Edinbane in Skye show the worry people now have about the benefits for the community brought by this highly disruptive innovation. The crofter once again, suddenly but belatedly, realises that he is to be the tail-end Charlie after the multinationals and landlords have taken the lion's share of the profits. Pairc and Ness are showing signs of waking up to this same realisation. Are people wrong in beginning to recognise that the sweet story is a lie and that the big boys will go off with the big money? Let's keep asking. We are told that there is no national plan of where these burgeoning windfarms are to be built. It seems to be 'first come, first accepted'. This worried some of our MSPs, but the local ones seem to regard these land-based windfarms as a Labour Party edict that cannot even be questioned. It takes someone like Michael Foxley of Highland Council to say that the size and situation of the massive scheme planned for Morvern 'beggars belief'.

On the theme of community benefits, people were astonished when a recent study by the highly respected IPA Energy Consulting, commissioned by the Western Isles Council and Highland Region came to that same conclusion - that the locals were being offered a measly fraction of the profits. "The key phrase," said Michael Foxley, "is that the communities are being offered a very poor

Perhaps you might like to take a look
on one of these websites
and learn some truth!

Websites with information relating to Wind Turbines

www.wind-watch.org

www.windturbinesyndrome.com

www.windvigilance.com

www.epaw.org

www.windaction.org

www.mlg.org.au

www.spacountryguardians.org.au

Many of these websites have links to further information and action groups.

The inevitable consequence of placing large industrial scale wind turbines too close to rural residents in areas with quiet background noise is going to be disturbed sleep from the audible noise emissions alone. The presence of "tonality" to the noise, as in this case, is going to increase the annoyance factor of that noise, and therefore result in more frequent episodes of disturbed sleep amongst the neighbours.

It is well established by an extensive body of peer reviewed published medical research that **chronically severely disturbed sleep, regardless of the cause, results in multiple serious adverse health consequences.** This is regardless of any other possible causative mechanisms responsible for the range of additional symptoms, some extremely serious, described as "wind turbine syndrome", which have been reported by medical practitioners globally over the last 8 years. These symptoms have been reported in some residents, workers and visitors in conjunction with operating wind turbines, **out to a distance of at least 10km under certain weather and wind conditions.**

Over 20 families in Australia have already left their homes & farms because of ill health. Some, like Trish Godfrey, were bought out and gagged by the wind developers, so they cannot talk about their health problems publicly, unless they are subpoenaed to give evidence in court.

Others have just walked away from their homes.

Landowners hosting turbines also get symptoms, their families become unwell too.

When are state planning authorities in Australia going adopt a precautionary approach, as the National Health and Medical Research Council's CEO Professor Warwick Anderson has suggested, both in the NHMRC's public statement and in his oral evidence to the Senate Inquiry into Rural Wind Farms? The Waubra Foundation currently recommends a 10km precautionary setback distance, until the proper research is completed, as this is the limit where highly specific symptoms correlating unmistakably with turbine operation are being reported.

When are the relevant authorities (EPA, Planning, Health, Local Council) going to properly investigate the frequent complaints of serious illness and intolerable noise and vibration made by residents across Australia in the vicinity of large operating wind turbines?

When are the 7 recommendations of the Federal Senate Inquiry into Rural Wind Farms going to be implemented?

Fraudulent ongoing denial of the adverse health problems occurring by ALL those responsible for SITING decisions is indefensible, given the mounting evidence internationally, and the recent finding in a court in Ontario, as follows:.

This case has successfully shown that the debate should not be simplified to one about whether wind turbines can cause harm to humans. *The evidence presented to the Tribunal demonstrates that they can, if facilities are placed too close to residents. The debate has now evolved to one of degree.*" (p. 207) (*Emphasis added*)

[i] Environmental Review Tribunal, Case Nos.: 10-121/10-122 Erickson v. Director, Ministry of the Environment, Dated this 18th day of July, 2011 by Jerry V. DeMarco, Panel Chair and Paul Muldoon, Vice-Chair, <http://www.ert.gov.on.ca/english/decisions/index.htm>



Dr Sarah Laurie BMBS Flinders

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PRESS RELEASE

**LOCAL RESIDENT'S APPEAL UPHELD IN South
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**AGL's "HALLETT 2" WIND TURBINES
noncompliant with EPA noise guidelines**

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AGL's "HALLETT 2" WIND TURBINES noncompliant with EPA noise guidelines

16 out of 34 turbines currently turned off overnight by AGL

SOLUTION: Don't site them close to homes, & do the research to find out what is 'safe'

The appeal by Mt Bryan resident Bill Quinn has been upheld in the South Australian Supreme Court, against the ERD (Environment, Resources & Development) Court decision last year to approve AGL's Hallett Stage 3 Wind Development. However there was no determination of the merits of any of the grounds of appeal.

Amongst these grounds of appeal was a challenge to the EPA SA Wind Farm Noise Guidelines, and specifically whether their limits take proper account of the impact on residents from the wind turbine noise. In other words, the appeal is questioning the ability of the guidelines, as they are currently, to adequately protect human health.

Barrister Peter Quinn, has stated "These questions are of general significance for ALL AUSTRALIAN STATES currently applying SA EPA wind policies and guidelines which are in similar terms to the SA EPA's 2009 guidelines for wind developments. This is extremely relevant for any matter in ANY planning jurisdiction which is seeking to apply the SA EPA wind farm noise guidelines (eg NSW, WA and SA). The court or planning authority should be advised that the adequacy of these guidelines is currently before the court in South Australia for determination, and that those matters should therefore be held over in abeyance until this particular matter is determined."

The appeal in this case was allowed, because evidence came to light that Wind Turbines owned by AGL, and operating at Hallett 2 Wind Development, are currently incapable of satisfying the current SA EPA Guidelines. This evidence of "tonality" in the S88 turbines had been known to the manufacturers Suzlon, who found "tonality" in the same type of turbines in March 2007 at Hallett 1. Despite prior knowledge of tonality, this information did not come to light in the initial court case in the ERD court in 2010. The determination of that question has been remitted back to the ERD Court.

Relevant to this is the fact that in the last week, AGL have shut down 16 of its 34 turbines at Hallett Stage 2, between 7pm and 7am.

Predictably, the residents of the surrounding area including the township of Mt Bryan have reported some excellent sleeps in the last week, since these turbines have been shut off. They have previously been publicly vilified and labelled as serial complainers and worse.

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Who is telling lies!
Not this Lady.

deprived-locals/

Dreaming of building a house and farming the land, Julie Quaft and her husband, Mark, bought a quiet 16ha property 100km north of Adelaide six years ago.

Since then, a wind farm has been built next to her house, which she said had not only robbed her of her dreams, but affected her health.

"It's made things very hard for me because I can't sleep," Mrs Quaft said. "It sounds like a huge jet engine rumbling on the hill."

The wind farm in Waterloo, near Clare, 100km north of Adelaide, began operating in October, but will be opened today by Mike Rann, amid criticism from the divided country community.

While many farmers have supported the project — particularly those earning an income from turbines built on their land — others have claimed to have suffered significant health effects.

Waubra Foundation medical director Sarah Laurie has studied the health effects of wind turbines and is concerned about the symptoms reported worldwide.

"The main symptoms are chronic sleep deprivation, night terrors, people waking up in the night in a panic for no reason and bed-wetting," Dr Laurie said.

"We think that what is happening is that people's sympathetic nervous systems are being stimulated so they get a massive rush of adrenalin in the middle of the night."

The state's push to develop wind farms is being driven by a target of having 33 per cent of energy generated by renewable sources by 2020.

More wind power is generated in South Australia than in any other state or territory, with 13 farms operating. As in Victoria, wind farms have attracted strong opposition from locals.

In October, Family First senator Steve Fielding asked federal parliament to examine their social and economic impact.

The parliamentary committee received hundreds of submissions, many expressing community concern over the turbines' health effects. Owned by Roaring 40s, the farm near the Quaft family has 37 turbines. Bill, a Waterloo resident who did not want to be identified, has all but moved to a nearby town to escape the constant roaring and pounding effect from the soundwaves.

He said the wind farm developers had put a wedge into the previously close-knit community.

"We've been deceived and conned all along," Bill said. Roaring 40s managing director Steve Symons said the wind farm had strong support from the community and the organisation had tried to work with those who had objections.

"With the health issues, as an industry, that hasn't been medically proven, but to the extent we have complaints from residents in relation to noise, we go to their houses and test the noise levels with microphones," Mr Symons said. "We are in compliance with the noise requirements of the EPA (Environment Protection Authority) and they are the most stringent noise requirements in Australia."

Two cases are before the state's courts, with residents questioning the health and environmental impact of planned wind farms.

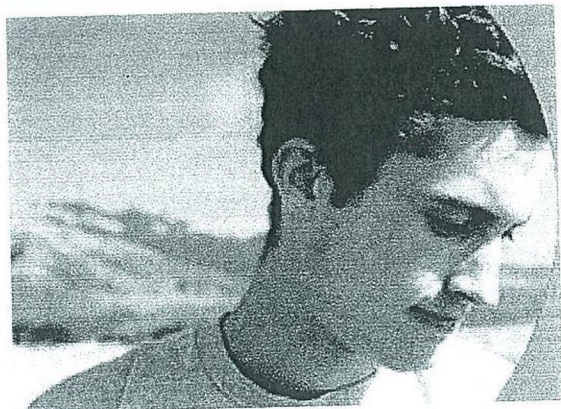
###



Australian
Human Rights
Commission

everyone, everywhere, everyday

*You are violating ~~our~~
human rights!*



Human Rights

Human rights are about recognising and respecting the inherent value and dignity of all people. Human rights standards are contained in internationally agreed human rights treaties and declarations. The Australian Human Rights Commission is responsible for promoting and encouraging protection of human rights in Australia.

The Commission promotes and protects human rights in a number of ways. For example, the Commission reviews and monitors legislation, conducts public inquiries, investigates and conciliates complaints, provides policy advice and delivers human rights education to promote greater understanding of human rights issues in Australia.

The Human Rights Commissioner, Catherine Branson QC, and the Human Rights Unit take the lead on the Commission's policy work in the areas including the human rights of asylum seekers and refugees, children's rights, and equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex people.

- For more information about human rights, [click here](#).
- For more information about the work of the Human Rights Commissioner and the Human Rights Unit, [click here](#).

What's new

- President reports into arbitrary detention, the standard of treatment in detention and rights of the child in detention (3 November 2011)
- Processing asylum seekers on the mainland is welcomed (14 October 2011)
- ~~Mental health impacts of indefinite detention~~ a major concern at Curtin detention centre (29 September 2011) *

October 24th, 2011

Please Read, I object
to Mr Upson Remarks
highlighted below

Re: Flyers Creek wind farm project

I am pleased to (finally) be in a position to write that the Flyers Creek Environment Assessment (EA) is on public display as of last Friday, October 21st. This is the beginning of the formal planning assessment process by the State Government. The EA will be on public display until December 19th during which time submissions will be accepted by the Government. If you would like to receive a copy of the EA on CD, please let me know.

As I stated during the landowner meeting in July, we envisioned when we started this project in 2008 that it would be a relatively uncontroversial project for a number of reasons. In some respects it still is, with far more vocal opposition to wind farms further south around Yass. However, the so-called Awareness Group will definitely be working hard over the next two months to gather as many objection from within, and outside, the district as possible. While the submission process is not a "vote" per se, it would not be beneficial if the great majority of the submissions opposed the project.

Therefore, I would ask that each landowner seek to have at least 2-3 positive submissions submitted by themselves, friends and/or relatives. Any person in NSW can make a submission. The submissions do not need to be long; one paragraph is fine as long as it clearly states the submission is "in support" of the Flyers Creek wind project.

Submissions can be made a number of different ways:

- Lodged online at: ..
http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=search&status_id=6
- Emailed to plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au Ref: MP08-0252
- Faxed to (02) 9228 6455
- Posted to Major Projects Assessment, Department of Planning & Infrastructure, GPO Box 39, Sydney, NSW 2001

I have attached a template that you are encouraged to distribute to friends and family for letter or fax submissions. If it would be helpful to have an electronic copy of this template, please let me know.

and kill jay. your the people
who are the kill jay as you
are killing a community
+ its wildlife!

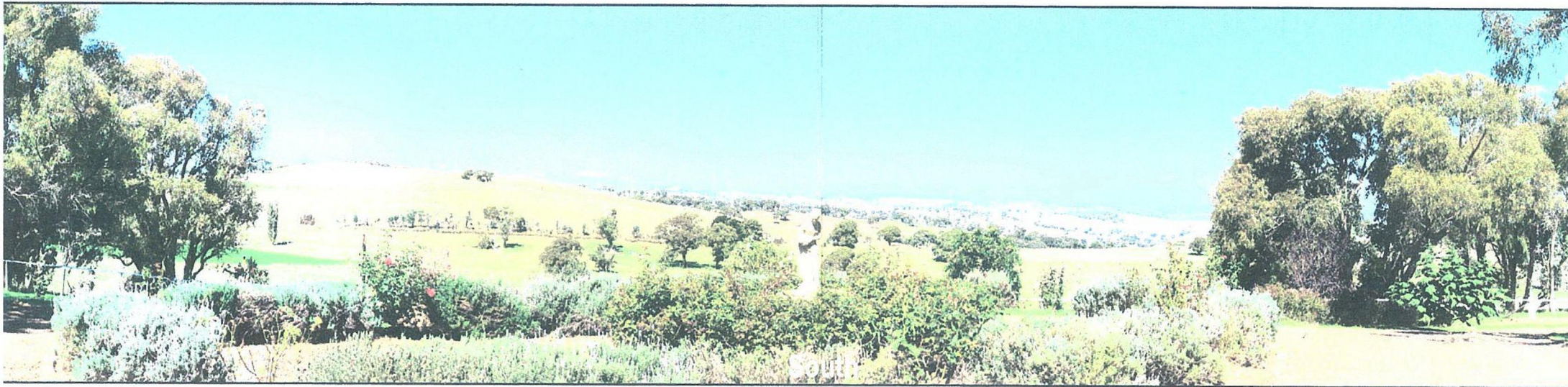
Once the submission period closes, the Department of Planning will ask us to formally respond to the submissions in writing and advise them if we consider that any changes should be made to the project layout and design as a result of the submissions. After Infigen lodges our response to the submissions, the NSW Government will refer the planning application to a Planning Assessment Commission which will make the final decision with regards to whether the Flyers Creek development application is approved or not. We would hope this would happen toward the middle of next year, but the timing is largely out of our control.

I would also like to let you know, Infigen Energy will have a booth at the Carcoar show on Saturday. Feel free to drop by and have a chat. Besides answering questions about the EA, I will be providing information about the Flyers Creek Community Turbine co-operative. As I mentioned in my previous letter, landowners in the project are free to register their interest to become members of the co-operative.

Best Regards,

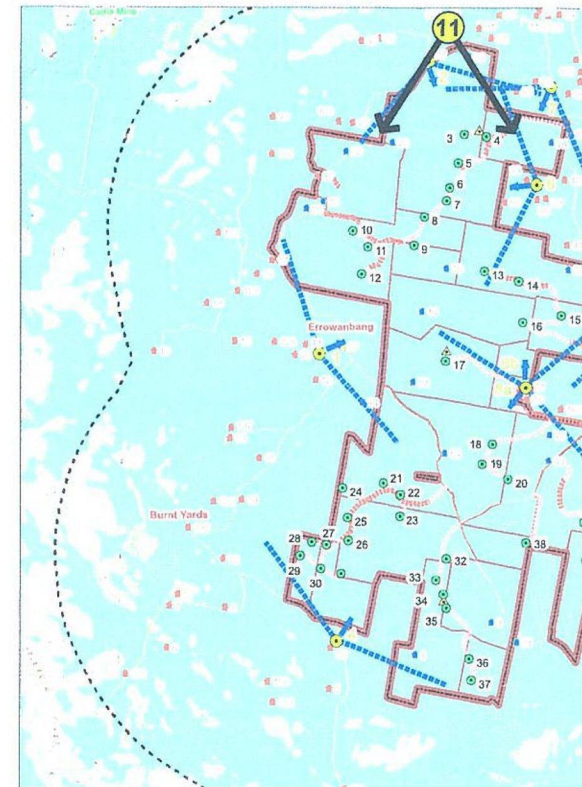


Jonathan Upson
Senior Development & Government Affairs Manager
03-9674-7173
0400-501-676
Jonathan.Upson@infigenenergy.com



Flyers Creek Windfarm – Simulated view of windfarm from View Point 11 – Resident 94 looking south

This is our
Beautiful View!



Stornoway Gazette, 19th February, 2004.

Pie in the Lewis sky?

THE WHOLE windfarm thing gets more and more confusing. Politicians and developers speak of fortunes to be made while others predict disappointment and disaster. The improvers tell us that these hundreds of huge turbines are environmentally-friendly and yet those same massive structures threaten our scenic moorlands as nothing else has ever done.

What is more surprising is the utter lack of proper discussion about this most sweeping of changes. People have taken sides while still knowing very little about the whole thing. Those who are for it take offence if any doubts are raised. The news from other countries does not fill us with confidence in this 'answer to all our ills'. Scholars in Germany have written a now famous paper called the Darmstadt Manifesto, challenging the economic and environmental effectiveness of windfarms, speaking of the 'industrial transformation of cultural landscapes which have evolved over centuries... More and more people are subjected to living unbearably close to machines of oppressive dimensions'.

Denmark is often quoted by backers of windfarms as a model, but their government has recently reduced subsidies drastically. Aase Madsen, the MP who chairs energy policy in the Danish Parliament is emphatic, 'For our industry it (wind-power) has been a terribly expensive disaster'. Niels Gram of the Danish Federation of Industries stated recently, "In green terms windmills are a mistake and economically they make no sense. Many of us thought wind was the 100 per cent solution for the future but we were wrong. In fact, taking all energy needs into account, it's only a three per cent solution." We are being made to question whether wind energy is delivering what was promised. The chief economist of Eltra, Denmark's biggest electricity distributor Jytte Kaad Jensen pinpoints a startling situation, "In just a few years we've gone from some of the cheapest electricity in Europe to some of the most costly." So much for Denmark.

The late in the day full-hall meetings in Edinbane in Skye show the worry people now have about the benefits for the community brought by this highly disruptive innovation. The crofter once again, suddenly but belatedly, realises that he is to be the tail-end Charlie after the multinationals and landlords have taken the lion's share of the profits. Pairc and Ness are showing signs of waking up to this same realisation. Are people wrong in beginning to recognise that the sweet story is a lie and that the big boys will go off with the big money? Let's keep asking. We are told that there is no national plan of where these burgeoning windfarms are to be built. It seems to be 'first come, first accepted'. This worried some of our MSPs, but the local ones seem to regard these land-based windfarms as a Labour Party edict that cannot even be questioned. It takes someone like Michael Foxley of Highland Council to say that the size and situation of the massive scheme planned for Morvern 'beggars belief'.

On the theme of community benefits, people were astonished when a recent study by the highly respected IPA Energy Consulting, commissioned by the Western Isles Council and Highland Region came to that same conclusion - that the locals were being offered a measly fraction of the profits. "The key phrase," said Michael Foxley, "is that the communities are being offered a very poor

deal." Who would have thought it, listening to a Mr Price from Amec? Work is another important issue. We now hear that only a handful of people will be employed on these huge projects once they are up and spinning- maybe 10 people in the whole of Lewis. Arnish, the big white hope, is already showing the endemic ills of development that rests in the hands of unknown outsiders. Does it ever work?

Why does it seem beyond the ability of political and development agencies to come up with a range of employment opportunities to support the local population without always having to ruin something else in order to do so? If it isn't the removal of a mountain it's the desecration of the very place people want to live in. We keep on being told that in tis digital age anything is possible with the world becoming smaller and the handicaps of distance being overcome. And still we continue to lose our families by the score. Depopulation is a serious problem and filling the place with windmills will not improve the situation at all.

The irreparable damage to Lewis's moor and to the scenic value of the area is widely accepted, and is feared and deplored by more and more people. A recent letter in the 'Scotsman' from two professors stated, "The base needed to support a large turbine requires about 1,000 tonnes of reinforced concrete. Huge road networks are also needed to erect and service the turbines. Once the bases and roads are built, they will never be removed."

There are estimates that Lewis may eventually have up to 1,000 turbines. There are to be 300 between Ness and the West Side, another 300 in Lochs to begin with. If the cable is put in place, other areas — such as Uig — will not be denied their fair share of the 'bog brushes in the sky'.

One of the most perplexing things about all this is that the politicians are making no effort to have the turbines placed far inland and out of sight. These peatlands are protected but the people aren't. Of course, it would cost the developers more, and we cannot have that. In the south, it seems that effective protests have driven the government to build windfarms out at sea and away from towns and villages. Wave energy and sea turbines may before long replace the land-based sites. Are we to be left with distorted, tilting monsters — not unlike the defunct oilrigs - as the industry moves on? We don't know, do we? Everyone tells us that the environment will be fully protected, and that the environmental impact studies will ensure this. But a study commissioned by Scottish Natural Heritage found that such impact studies have underestimated the scale of projects and the severity of impact. The confusion continues. Letters in the local press continue to warn us of what we are about to let ourselves in for. 'Islanders awake! Rise up and stop this devastation of your environment...', said one.

Another one shared his experiences in Cumbria, "Why do you think they want to put these windfarms in Lewis anyway? It's because the big business involved think you are a kind of underdeveloped country, desperate for anything, so will leap at the chance to be part of this new industry." Are we taking a blind and greedy leap into the dark? "We welcomed these windfarms with all their promises. We now reject them all," he concludes. The onslaught on the lives of birds is frightening. The death of 'Filled Heart', the red kite sliced to death by the huge blade of a turbine, has caught

Stornoway Gazette

You are here [News](#) > [Local Headlines](#)

Wednesday 9 March 2011

the public attention. But the scale of destruction is much more widespread since the rotating blades are at the same height—the height of a 40-storey office block—as the flight-paths of birds, such as the golden eagle. Worse, eagles and other birds of prey are known to be 'attracted' into areas swept by rotors, not least since rabbits will feed on the new grass replacing the heather at the base of turbines. The renowned environmentalist David Bellamy has recently demanded that windfarms be banned as they 'chop up birds'. Data from Altamont Pass wind farm in California show 6,000 hawks, 1,000 eagles and 2,000 owls killed since it was built.

A large study carried out in Navarre in Spain found that up to 6,500 birds were killed yearly by rotating turbine blades. It is for such reasons that the RSPB has opposed 27 big windfarms and has concern over many more. For example, Anne McColl, on behalf of RSPB, aims to take all the way to Europe objections to the veritable forest of sky-scraping turbines planned for the whole of northern Lewis. Some speak of it as the whole of Lewis being turned into one wind-driven power station. Are we ready to accept this? There was a time when the media and investigative journalism would have tried to keep us informed on these matters. Our once radical press now merely resorts to counting the number of letters written by people opposed to this development.

No public body has been formed to give voice to this as a Lewis issue, and local meetings seem concerned mainly with the level of subsidy that might be made available. Equally surprising is that no-one seems to speak up for our invaluable tourism industry which brings significant enterprise here. Visitors come to enjoy our amazing, unspoilt landscape and clean vistas of sea and sky. Will they continue to come to admire Lewis in its new role of being one vast wind power station that will encompass its limited and precious island land space? I know them, I probably speak to more of them in a day in my gallery in the summer than our politicians do in a year: they won't be coming. And who can blame them? It is never easy to talk in a simple way about our physical surroundings and how we relate to them. Let us just say that our island home has been to generations a part of their very existence. In one way we are not aware of it, while in another way it is never out of our awareness. One modern writer has it, "We are constantly aware of what may seem trivial things: the density of light, the angle of light, the temperature, the cloud cover, the clean lines of the land and the sky and the sea..." Local and national politicians see little voting value in being all-environmental, and often denigrate those who speak of it, tarring them with being otherworldly, well-heeled nincompoops. When our landscape has been changed beyond all recognition and when Lewis will be peppered with hundreds of these extraordinary huge structures, and where we cannot be out of sight of them in any corner of the island, will we then—and only then—rue the day we accepted these companies with open arms? Will it be all too late then? Will we tell our children, 'I never realised. Nobody told me what it would be like?' 'Were you asleep or something?' they may ask us. 'I tried to understand,' I will murmur feebly.

JAMES SMITH
Oiseval Brue Lewis



What if we could own a wind turbine?

9 November 2011

Mr & Mrs Campbell
283 Wattersons Lane
Forest Reefs NSW 2798

This was sent to my self
by MR UPSON.
There is NO MR
Campbell at
our home!

X Dear Mr & Mrs Campbell, X

We are excited to announce that a core group of interested parties from the recent Orange and Bathurst co-op meetings and the Carcoar Show have offered to serve on committees to facilitate the development of the proposed co-operative.

We believe this initiative should be run by the people, for the people.

We are encouraging people to step forward if they are interested in becoming a member of the Co-op.

Please fill out the enclosed form if you would like to register your interest to become a member of the Flyers Creek Wind Farm Co-op.

Please send it to:

FAO: Wind Co-op.
Level 22, 56 Pitt Street
Sydney, NSW, 2000

I object to
his childishness

You can also provide your details online:
www.windcoop.com.au/register-your-interest.

For more information about the Flyers Creek Wind Co-op proposal and the project, please go to: www.windcoop.com.au/about-windcoop/flyers-creek-all-info.

Kind regards,

Marju Tonisson
Communications Coordinator
P: 02 8031 9900



What if you could own a wind turbine?

FLYERS CREEK WIND CO-OP PROPOSAL

Flyers Creek Wind Farm

Flyers Creek project was started by the local community, when farmers approached Infigen Energy in 2008.

By 2010, environmental studies had been progressed and a preliminary layout generated incorporating Infigen's response to community consultation.

PROPOSAL

The proposed Flyers Creek Wind Farm comprises 44 wind turbines along with a substation, switchyard, cabling, access tracks and other associated infrastructure. Depending on the model of the turbine, electrical capacity is likely to be between 2.5 and 3.3 megawatts, and project capacity will be between 80 to 115 megawatts.

UPDATE

The Environmental Assessment submitted to the NSW Department of Planning is on public display from 21 October 2011 to 19 December 2011.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Determination of development application
- Contracts (turbine supply & construction, connection, offtake)
- Infigen final investment decision

PROPOSAL

The Wind Co-op provides the community the opportunity to effectively buy wind turbine and receive all profits generated by that wind turbine. Such infrastructure co-operatives are transparent, accountable and local. Some examples are Coleambally Irrigation, Harvey Water and Hepburn Wind.

The Wind Co-op will be run by the local community, for the local community. While Infigen Energy is kicking off this initiative, and will facilitate the start-up where it can, community members will manage the co-op's formation and operation.

Three Community Committees will be formed to progress and facilitate this proposal.

EXPECTED RETURNS

The Co-operative Disclosure Statement (i.e. the business plan) will be written by the Co-op Disclosure Committee, and will include a detailed financial forecast of the expected returns.

Infigen Energy is very confident that the co-operative will earn an attractive return as will be described in the Disclosure Statement. The co-op will distribute the profits to co-op members by way of cash dividends.

However, if the co-op desired, Infigen could investigate the option of co-op members receiving an electricity rebate in lieu of dividends.

ECONOMICS

The cost of the wind turbine and infrastructure will depend on the model selected for the Flyers Creek project. As an indication, one wind turbine and related infrastructure could cost in the order of \$5 to \$6 million.

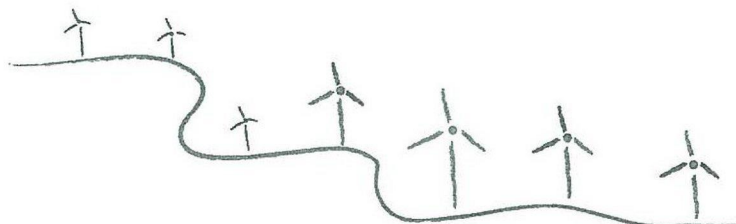
Revenue from a wind turbine is earned from two sources:

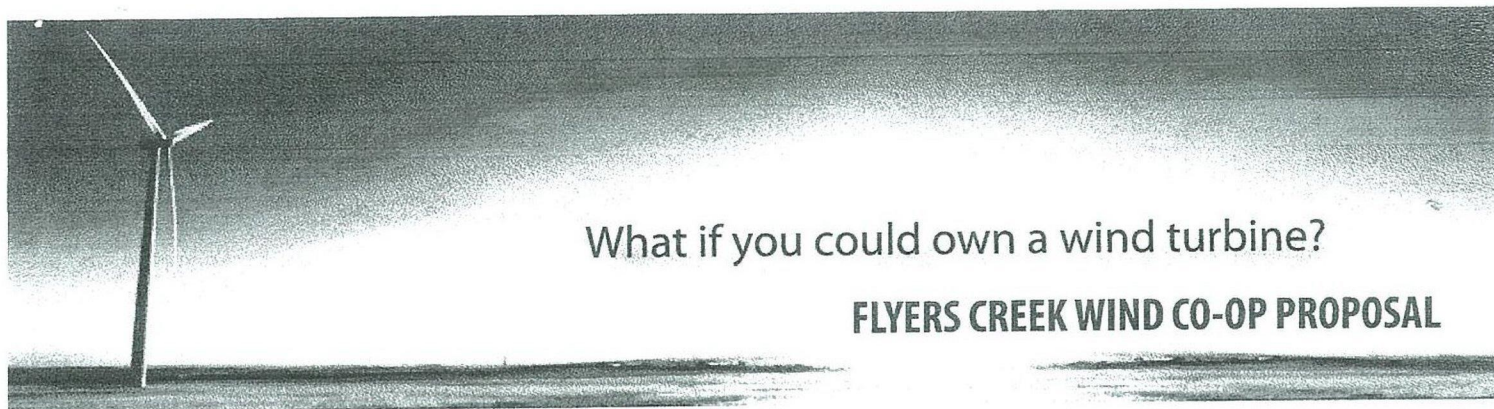
1. Sale of electricity into the National Electricity Market
2. Sale of Large Scale Renewable Energy Certificates (LRECs)

The co-op will receive the same electricity and LREC price as the rest of the Flyers Creek project. Economies of scale are gained from Infigen maintaining more than 40 wind turbines.

To find out more, please visit:
www.windco-op.com.au

If you would like to register your interest to become a member of the Flyers Creek Wind Co-op, please go to: www.windco-op.com.au/register-your-interest





What if you could own a wind turbine?

FLYERS CREEK WIND CO-OP PROPOSAL

YOUR FEEDBACK AND REGISTRATION OF INTEREST

Please provide your details if you are interested in becoming a member of the Flyers Creek Wind Farm Co-op.

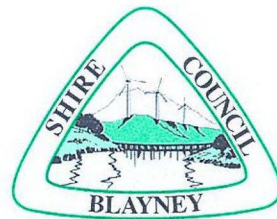
Personal details	
Name:	
Address:	Town: Post code:
Contact details	Phone: Mobile: Email:.....@.....
How would you like to be kept informed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Post
Approximate distance of my residence from Flyers Creek Wind Farm?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 km – 2 km <input type="checkbox"/> 5.1 km – 10 km <input type="checkbox"/> 10.1 km – 20 km <input type="checkbox"/> 2.1 km – 5 km <input type="checkbox"/> 20 km – 50 km <input type="checkbox"/> More than 50 km
My potential participation	
I would like to be active in the following role(s) in setting up the Flyers Creek Wind Co-op:	<input type="checkbox"/> Member of the Wind Co-op <input type="checkbox"/> Member of the Rules Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Member of the Disclosure Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Member of the Communications Committee
I would be interested in buying shares for the following amount:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 – \$1,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,000 – \$4,999 <input type="checkbox"/> Other:.....
Would you prefer to receive distributions through cash or electricity?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cash distribution <input type="checkbox"/> Electricity	
PRIVACY STATEMENT Flyers Creek Wind Farm Pty Ltd and its related bodies corporate (collectively, FCWF) are subject to the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) (including the National Privacy Principles). Any of the information you provide above may be used by FCWF for the purpose of assessing the feasibility of, establishing, or assisting a co-operative in respect of the proposed Flyers Creek Wind Farm. FCWF may disclose the above information to external service providers on a confidential basis for these same purposes.	

To find out more, please visit:
www.windco-op.com.au

If you would like to register your interest to become a member of the Flyers Creek Wind Co-op, please go



Blayney Shire Council



25 May 2011

Our Reference: 267293

JE Foster and M Campbell
283 Wattersons Lane
FOREST REEFS NSW 2798

MR Philip
Have just noticed
this below. Have
highlighted for
you

Dear Sir/Madam

APPLICANT:
DA NO:
PROPERTY:

Mrs M J Scott
119/2010/1
Lot 907, DP827735 - 2225 Errowanbang Road,
Forest Reefs.

DEVELOPMENT:

Proposed Section 96 (1A) Modification
Seeking to Replace the Approved 36 metre
Guyed Tower with a 30 metre Lattice Tower.

Council has received the above modification application.

Yes we do
enjoy our land

As the owner of adjacent property, or a person whose enjoyment of your land may be affected by the proposal, the proposal is brought to your attention to enable you to make any submissions that you may wish to make regarding the proposal. You may inspect plans of the proposed development by visiting Council's Environmental Services Division, between 9.00am and 5.00pm on weekdays, public holidays excepted.

This is
a Baby
Compared
to 150m

Any submission that you wish to make to Council must be in writing and must be submitted within **fourteen (14)** days of the date of this letter.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that when dealing with a development application, Council must have regard to the following criteria:-

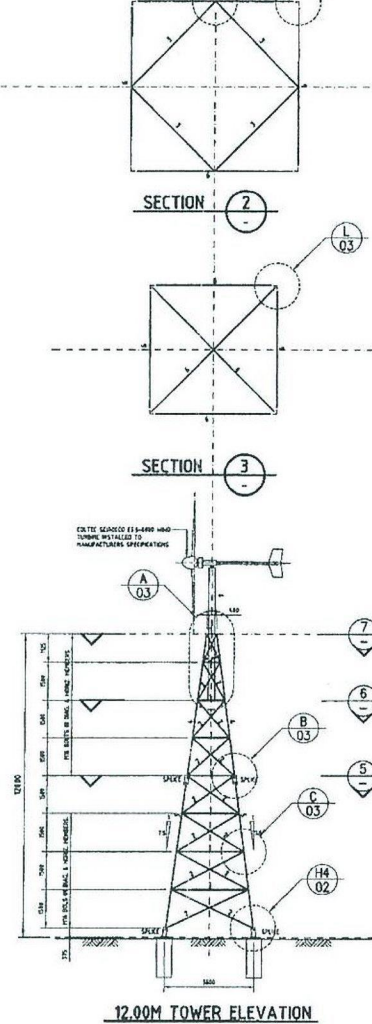
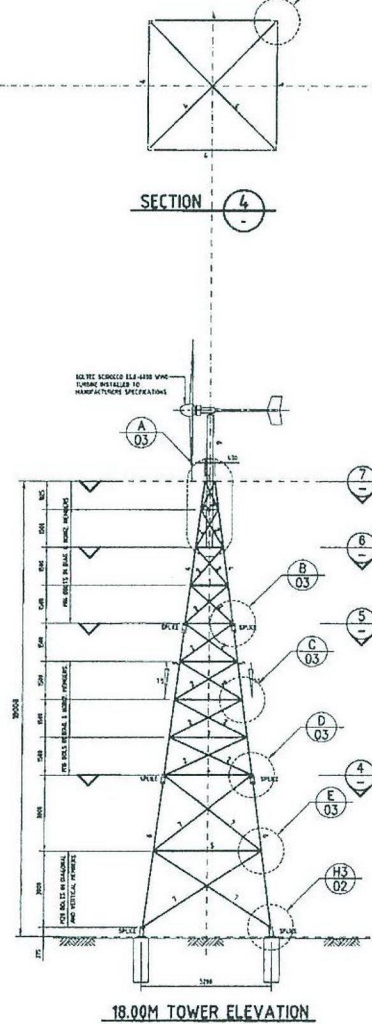
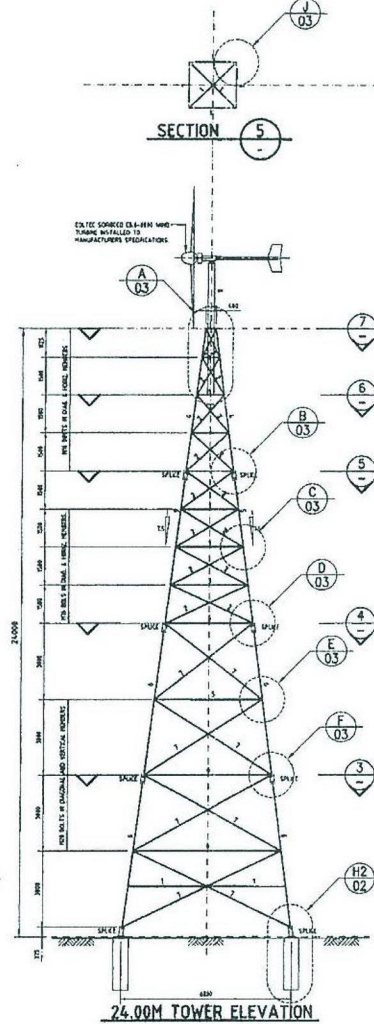
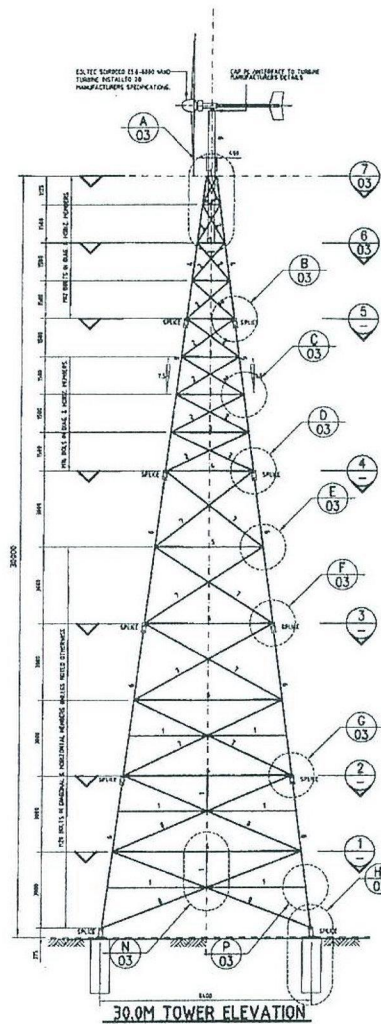
- Council must deal with development applications in accordance with the relevant Statutes, Standards and Codes.
- Council will consider all submissions made to it, but to influence Council's decision such submissions must be relevant and well founded. Therefore, it is essential that submissions spell out clearly the grounds upon which they are based.
- Council's final decision will be the result of a balanced consideration of the rights and duties of both the applicant and the community.
- Any submissions that you make on this proposal may be made available to the applicant for comment during consideration of the development application.
- Any submissions that you make on this proposal may be included in a report to council on the development.

If you do not wish to make a submission to Council concerning the proposal, it is not necessary for you to write to Council. Should you have any questions concerning the proposal, please contact Council's Health and Building Department (02) 6368 9618.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'CJ' followed by a long horizontal line.

Claire Johnstone
Senior Town Planner
For the General Manager



STEELWORK SCHEDULE

MEMBER No.	SIZE
1	55 x 55 x 6 EA
2	50 x 50 PLAT
3	45 x 45 x 6 EA
4	75 x 75 x 6 EA
5	90 x 90 x 6 EA
6	100 x 100 x 10 EA
7	45 x 5 PLAT
8	50 x 5 PLAT
9	200 x 400 CAS

DESIGN NOTES

WIND LOAD
The wind load on the tower has been assessed from the following parameters - Region A2 Ultimate 10m static basic wind speed of 50 m/s
Terrain multiplier M_T assumed as 1.1 Wind direction multiplier M_D of 1.0
Topographic multiplier M_Z (all based on terrain category 2) The maximum design gust wind speed of level 30 m is 61.6 m/s. Offshore Wind & Associates to verify that specific sites are suitable for proposed towers prior to being used for construction.

FOUNDATIONS
The foundation design is to be developed specifically for each site and will require a detailed geotechnical assessment and surface level survey. (30m) to be in the order of 130 kN. The information provided on this drawing is based on a stiff clay with a minimum undrained shear strength of 75 kPa. Offshore Wind & Associates to verify founding conditions prior to being used for construction.

CONSTRUCTION NOTES

- CONCRETE**
C1. Concrete in footings shall have a minimum compressive strength of 25 MPa with 20mm max. size aggregate and a slump of 80mm.
C2. Concrete shall be effectively vibrated during placement.
C3. Minimum cover to reinforcement to be 50mm.
- STRUCTURAL STEELWORK**
S1. All workmanship and materials shall comply with the current edition of the A.C.S.E. Structural Steel Erection and Fabrication Specifications of AS 1251.
S2. All welds to be done continuous fillet unless noted otherwise.
S3. All bolts to be high strength grade 8.8's.
S4. All steelwork to be hot dip galvanized after fabrication.

A	1/20/21	Approved Client Details
B	1/20/21	For Approval
Rev	Draw	Details

PROJECT
30, 24, 18 & 12M WIND TURBINE MOUNTING TOWERS

TITLE
STEELWORK LAYOUT

CLIENT
SOLAR INVERTERS



O'Meara Wood & Associates Pty Ltd

PO BOX 362
DUNEDIN 9010
New Zealand

Ph: 03 484 3000
Fax: 03 484 3000

Drawn: RCD
Checked: RCD
Approved: CMW
Date: FEB 2011
Project No: 11027
Draw No: 11027-01a

Hotmail

New | Reply | Reply all | Forward | Delete | Junk | Sweep ▾ | Mark as ▾ | Move to ▾ |

Inbox (300)

Folders

Inbox (300)

wind farm (1)

Junk (11)

Drafts (11)

Sent

Deleted (25)

ellie louise

Ian Insurance

mo an jons house

[New folder](#)

Quick views

Flagged (1)

Photos (39)

Office docs (19)

Messenger

2 invitations

[Sign in to Messenger](#)



Inbox

[Search email](#)



Options ▾

<input type="checkbox"/>	Show: All Unread From contacts	Arrange by ▾	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Source update, Mong... Groups (9) Everything else	12/12/2011	
<input type="checkbox"/>	FCWTAG Flyer	Go...	12/12/2011
<input type="checkbox"/>	Friends Photos & Albums	Ne...	11/12/2011
<input type="checkbox"/>	Facebook	Ma...	10/12/2011
<input type="checkbox"/>	FCWTAG Flyer	FW...	10/12/2011
<input type="checkbox"/>	FCWTAG Flyer (2)	Me...	9/12/2011

439 messages

Page 1 | [Go to](#)

FW: music to the ears - 9th Dec

[Full view](#)

FCWTAG Flyer

To FCWTAG Flyer

9/12/2011

[Reply ▾](#)

Wind Turbine Fire

Hotmail Active View



And were not in danger. lico!

[View slide show \(36\)](#) | [View on Flickr](#)

flickr

Front page of the Herald Website.

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/weather/chaos-in-scotland-as-wild-winds-create-havoc-20111209-1om1w.html>

Chaos in Scotland as wild

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Click
visit
we

austral
bankin



AUST
BAN
REF

Author
Australian
Capital H

On fire ... strong winds forced this turbine to spin so quickly it burst into flames. *Photo: Stuart McMahon*

A photo gallery on [BBC Scotland's website](#) showed two large trucks lying on their sides after being blown over at Loch Restil and a car damaged and surrounded by rubble from a collapsed wall in Aberdeen.

A 100-metre tall wind turbine at Ardrossan wind farm **caught fire in the hurricane-force winds**, with photographs showing bright orange embers flying through the air and thick black smoke.

Huge waves also lashed Maidens Harbour in South Ayrshire and a river in Dumfries burst its banks and flooded paddocks.



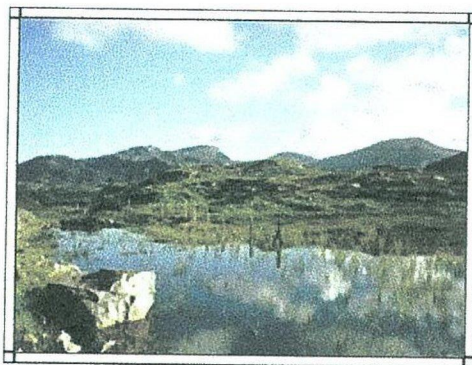
Blown over ... a lorry was turned on its side on the southbound M9 motorway near Stirling, Scotland. *Photo: Reuters*

The Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland said a wide area of the country would be affected and that "people could be putting themselves at considerable risk" by travelling in such weather conditions.

Glasgow Airport said 37 flights were cancelled, while Edinburgh Airport said 21 were cancelled and three diverted.

The wind made operations "extremely challenging", Edinburgh Airport said on its website.





Monday, 21 April 2008

Hot News: Lewis Wind Farm Refused

Estates. In December 2006, Lewis Windpower amended this application, reducing the number of turbines to 181, and the generating capacity to 651 Megawatts.

**"Step we gaily, on we go
Heel for heel and toe for toe,
Arm in arm and row on row,
All for Mairi's wedding."

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Areas come forward.

I considered all the relevant issues and concluded it would not be possible to approve this application.

The Lewis Wind Farm would have significant adverse impacts on the Lewis Peatlands Special Protection Area, which is designated due to its high value for rare and endangered birds."

Genuine Ecological Concerns

Bravo, Minister! How encouraging to see some genuine ecological concerns winning out against the airy fairy consequences of 'global warming' hysteria. We have too few remaining wildernesses in the British Isles; they are good for our souls. The loss of Lewis would have been a tragedy. For once, I'm with the birds.

Time for an outburst [beautifully sung here by Hazel Whyte] of the famous *Lewis Bridal Song* [Original Gaelic by Johnny Bannerman (1935); English words by Hugh S. Robertson (1936, below)**; melody traditional]

*"S i mo ghaol-sa Màiri Bhàn
Màiri bhòidheach sgeul mo dhain
Gaol mo chridh'-sa Màiri Bhàn
'S tha mi 'dol 'ga pòsadh."*

"Slàn leibh. Tapadh leibh."

[See: my earlier blog, 'Iconic Lewis Saved From Wind Farm?' (January 26); see also Scottish Government Press Release (April 21): 'Decision on Lewis windfarm']

*Details of wind farm proposal: in October 2004, Lewis Windpower, a consortium of AMEC and British Energy, applied to construct and operate 234 wind turbines with a generating capacity of 702 Megawatts at Barvas Moor and other locations in north Lewis, on land owned by the Stornoway Trust and the Galson and Barvas

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GLOBAL WARMING POLITICS

A HOT TOPIC BLOG

[Uig Loch, Isle of Lewis: © Andrew Dunn, 2002, reproduced under the Creative Commons Attribution ShareAlike 1.0 License]

"Fàilte, Ciamar a tha sibh?" I am delighted to be able to report that the dreadful wind farm proposed* for the beautiful Isle of Lewis (*Eilean Leòdhais*) in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland has been refused by the Scottish Energy Minister ('Lewis Wind Farm refused', *The Stornoway Gazette*, April 21):

"Plans by Lewis Windpower for a wind farm at Barvas Moor in Lewis have been refused consent on the grounds of incompatibility with European law.

Ministers have concluded that the proposed 181 turbine Lewis Wind Farm would have a serious impact on the Lewis Peatlands Special Protection Area, which is designated under the EC Birds Directive and protected under the EC Habitats Directive."

The Energy Minister, Jim Mather, is reported as concluding:

"I have considered this application very carefully. I have listened to representations from the applicant, taken the views of *Comhairle nan Eilean Siar* and considered the 10,924 objections and 98 letters of support.

I visited Stornoway last month and heard at first hand a range of deeply held views. I have also taken ecological advice, and advice from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage.

European legislation requires a specific procedure to be followed when proposals which could potentially affect Special Protection

1.

LEWIS WINDFARMS.

Written submission to the Inquiry per Stornoway Gazette, July 21, 2005.

I left Lewis many years ago and now retired have contemplated moving back to the island. This is now on the back-burner as no way would I purchase any property there if the island is to be desecrated by windfarms.

REGISTERED OFFICE : Where are the registered offices of Lewis Wind Power and Beinn Mhor Power? Are they in Lewis or somewhere else? If not in Lewis, why not?

JOBS: Great play and publicity is made by AMEC on the number of jobs that will be created. However, they have not stated the actual number of jobs or specific trades. Is Lewis to be sacrificed for the sake of a hundred or so 'Grease-spanner' jobs? Multi-nationals always promise jobs when they wish to develop on a green-field site but seldom do the number of jobs promised materialise. If they are not forced to actually state the number of jobs then once they obtain planning permission they can employ as many or as few as they wish. AMEC have failed to state how many permanent jobs there will be in Lewis. AMEC must know the total number they will employ and the trade disciplines. AMEC are a multi-national who well know the labour required before they would undertake any such project.

PERMANENT LONG TERM EMPLOYMENT: AMEC publicists and fellow travellers propagate the jobs that would be created. If they are so keen on creating long term employment in Lewis why do they not re-locate their Energy/Windfarm Division to Lewis? There are hundreds of Western Isles graduates scattered around the globe and I am sure some would return home if good long term jobs were available. With the world being a global village and industry being governed by micro-chips and information technology etc, could it not be as easy to have an office in Stornoway as in Southampton? Their plant will be in Lewis so why not the office jobs?

Locating this department to Lewis would possibly result in suppliers establishing plants in the area. Amec are going to make millions of pounds in profits from Lewis therefore they owe the island permanent long term employment.

RECRUITMENT : Will recruitment for the project be done in Lewis or from Amec's offices in England? Will interviews for workers take place in Stornoway? Will they advertise for labour in local and Scottish papers? What attempt are they going to make to attract emigrant islanders back to Lewis?

TRADESMEN: What trade disciplines will they be employing? Where are they going to get these tradesmen as there will be few of them in Lewis? Will they be importing their work force from all over the U.K. and overseas? How many outside operatives are they going to employ?

UNSKILLED: How many unskilled men/women will be employed?

TRADE TESTS: Will trade tests, such as welder-testing, be carried out in Lewis or on the mainland?

2.

TRAINING & SAFETY: Will a training and safety facility be set-up in Lewis? If not where will it be located?

STAFF: How many white collar workers will be permanently employed in Lewis? Will the wages, planning, material, technical and other relevant departments for Lewis Windpower be based in Lewis?

SUPERVISORS, FOREMEN, SUPERINTENDENTS : Where and how are Amec going to recruit these disciplines?

SUB-CONTRACTORS: Will Amec give preference to Western Isles firms for maintenance of plant and other work?

TRANSPORT: If Amec hire cars, lorries, vans and plant, will they be hired from island garages rather than mainland contractors?

ARNISH : The promise that the manufacture of wind turbines will be the salvation of the Arnish fabrication yard I find feeble. Amec may give orders for a few turbines but what then? With the extortionate air and ferry freight charges I cannot see how Arnish can compete with European or mainland yards. Anyhow the Europeans are years ahead in the manufacturing of wind turbines.

TOURISM : If as a result of the windfarms the tourist industry collapses will Amec or the government compensate the islanders?

HEALTH : Have any studies been done regarding the adverse effect windfarms may have on people's health and quality of life quality?

HOUSE PRICES : Will house prices collapse? This could lead to depression when people learn their property has little or no value?

GRAZINGS: As the turbines are being scattered across the moor it is obvious the crofters are going to lose a substantial amount of grazing . Will the crofters be compensated?

LEWIS MUTTON: Known for its flavour and a local produce. If there are fewer sheep as a result of wind turbines on the moor then mutton will have to be imported from the Scottish mainland adding to the cost of living in Lewis. . Lack of sheep could also end the well known Stornoway black pudding!!!

ENERGY COMPANY : Why has the Western Isles council failed to set-up or assist in the setting-up of an energy company for the whole Western Isles ; e wind, wave etc. All the islanders would have benefited from such a venture.

POWER COST: Because energy is produced in Lewis does this mean the Western Isles will have less to pay for electricity? Cheaper power could attract some industry to the island..

3.

GLOBAL WARMING: According to Government statistics, the UK is responsible for about 2% of global CO2 production and Scotland approx. 0.2%. If we went green tomorrow the impact would be of little consequence in world terms. Why should we therefore blot our landscape, possibly ruin our tourist industry and wild life for minimal CO2 reduction?

LANDSCAPE : The windfarms in Lewis will desecrate a beautiful wild and rugged landscape. The loss of a superb landscape appears to outweigh the benefits of the feeble electrical power produced. I have viewed the small scale windfarm at the Glens of Foundland between Huntly and Inverurie and the turbines are hideous and can best be described as industrial graffiti on the hill. I understand some locals are already unhappy with the noise from the turbines.

SHARES: Will the Western islanders be given any inducement to buy AMEC shares? Will they have to pay the market price?

PROFIT: How much profit does AMEC envisage making per annum from Lewis Wind power? What percentage of this profit are they giving back to Lewis?

TAX: We read about the money the crofters will receive as a result of wind power development. How much of his money will the Chancellor of the Exchequer claw back in tax? Will this money be counted as unearned income?

SITE-CLEARANCE: What provision is being made to clear the turbine sites once production has ended? Will Lewis be left with an industrial wasteland strewn with rusting wind turbines?

ECOLOGICAL DISASTER: If an ecological disaster is caused by wind turbines or their installation has any provision been made as to who will pay for the damage? Will the Council, Amec or the government be responsible for all costs?

WILDLIFE: What is going to be the effect on wildlife? Many tourists are attracted to the islands to see the wildlife, birds and plants and I am sure the last thing they will wish to see are dead birds lying on the moor.

HILL WALKERS: Will hill walkers be banned from walking in the vicinity of the turbines? If they are, this will obviously result in fewer hill walkers coming on holiday to Lewis.

GOVERNMENT AID : How much government aid, grants or subsidies will AMEC receive to proceed with the wind farms? How much aid, grants etc has the government given to Amec since 1997 to keep open their fabrication yards in N.E. England or to assist to gain export orders? Since 1997 all the Scottish fabrication yards have closed down. However, the English fabrication yards are still open.

FARE & FREIGHT CHARGES: The extortionate air and ferry charges have more or less killed off any hope of industrial companies being established in the Western Isles.

4.

Few companies could survive this added cost and one suspects that the recent closures of fish farms are a direct result of the freight charges.

Norway introduced R.E.T. for their vulnerable peripheral communities years ago. If the British government had any desire to help industry in the islands they would have introduced R.E.T. here. Some of the subsidies and grants awarded to multi-nationals for various reasons would go a long way in alleviating the burden of excessive fare and freight charges imposed on the islanders.

NUCLEAR WASTE DUMP: Once the wind farms cease will the Lewis moor be used as a dump for nuclear waste? After years of secrecy Nirex has been forced to admit that their preferred options for nuclear waste dumps are areas of low population and they would not consider dumps in highly populated areas. With a low population density there would be few ethnic people around to challenge Nirex and one wonders if the depopulation of the Western Isles has been furtively orchestrated by successive Westminster governments to this end. Nirex have stated that for political reasons they would never consider Northern Ireland as a location for nuclear waste.

POLLUTION: Will there be pollution as a result of the wind farms? Who will be responsible for picking-up dead or wounded birds or wild animals in the vicinity of the turbines?

FISHING INDUSTRY: If successive Westminster governments (Labour and Tory) had any interest in providing employment and sustaining the population of the Isles they would have assisted Western Isles fishermen to develop the deep waters north and west of the Hebrides. Today not one boat from the Western Isles has a quota to fish for herring or white fish in our own territorial waters. However, EU trawlers with the blessing of the British government are taking thousands of boxes a week from our fishing grounds and not creating one job in the Western Isles. Kinlochbervie, Ullapool and Lochinver are now virtually fishing ports for Spanish and French trawlers; landing sometimes 14,000 boxes a week at these ports. The British government is not interested in our only raw material, fish, creating jobs in the Western Isles, in fact one wonders if the government has abandoned the Western Isles and lost interest in the people there. In 1909 around 12,000 people in the Western Isles were employed in the fishing industry but very few today except a few scratching for prawns or working at salmon farms.

EASTERN EUROPEAN TRAWLERS: I understand that our government has now agreed with the EU that new members; Poland, Lithuania and Estonia, be given quotas to join the other EU fleets to fish our waters. We have no quotas in their waters?

EU FISHING GRANTS FOR LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES: Though not reported in British newspapers I believe the UK has agreed that the EU give grants to landlocked Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia to develop their fishing industries. These countries never even owned a trawler and do not even have a coast line. They will obviously be given quotas to fish our waters.

Why did the U.K. government not make any effort to get EU grants to train Western isles fishermen and financial aid to buy new boats? Around 60% of the edible fish in EU waters are in the seas around Scotland. Catching and processing this fish would create a lot more jobs than windfarms.

POPULATION DECLINE: Despite the hype, by windfarm supporters the proposed Amec development is not going to halt the depopulation of the Western Isles. How many island graduates will be employed by AMEC on a permanent basis? . We are told the south-east of England is grossly over-populated, yet the government does not make any effort to reduce the population in the area. These days administrative and office jobs could be done in Lewis just as efficiently as in London, so why does the government not transfer a couple of thousand civil service jobs to the Western Isles to sustain the population? Because they have little or no interest in the Western Isles.

WESTERN ISLES – ICELAND: A study of variation in the population of Iceland and the Western Isles shows how our population has rapidly declined over the last hundred years. In 1891 the Icelanders numbered 70,927 and the Western Isles had 44,987 inhabitants. Today the population of Iceland is over 270,000 whereas the Western Isles has declined to around 25,000. There is something far wrong when there is such a disparity in these population figures. The populations of Iceland, Norway, Faeroes and Ireland are all increasing while that of the Western Isles and Scotland is declining fast. What is the reason? Some people are now of the opinion that the Brit establishment may have a hidden agenda that to preserve the Union the population of Scotland has to be kept at a manageable level. The Clearances, heavy losses in wars, promotion of emigration and creating unemployment forcing Scots to leave the country have all resulted in the diminution of the Western Isles and Scottish population. In the last twenty years the Western Isles suffered the largest population decline since the Highland Clearances. If the government desired they could easily halt the depopulation.

NATIONAL INTEREST: Some people who have never seen a windfarm have stated that in the national interest we must have wind farms in Lewis and Scotland. I think this will ring very hollow with Lewis people who are well aware of the *'sacrifices for the national interest'*, with no reward, made by their kith and kin in the two World wars and in other wars over the last two hundred years.

When I hear politicians or others evoking the national interest to support their argument for wind farms in Lewis I am reminded of the statement by a Lewis ex-serviceman who lost many relations at sea, in the army and in the air in the two World Wars: *"Who did my relations die defending? Certainly not this place. We were used as cannon fodder to defend the financiers in the City of London. For our loyalty and heavy losses in the wars successive British governments, Labour and Tory, in peace-time have rewarded us with unemployment or emigration. In 1919 Admiralty negligence even drowned over two hundred island naval reservists coming home from World War 1, some bonus for their dauntless war service. Many of the island villages that provided the 'War Heroes' are now derelict. To add insult to injury the Westminster government has handed our fishing grounds over to the European fishing fleets.*

6.

Not one boat from the Western Isles has a licence to fish for white fish yet the Spaniards and French are landing thousands of boxes from our waters. The politicians in London have forgotten that it was mostly fishermen and their sons who manned the convoys in the two World Wars. Our Islands would be better off today if Hitler had won the war, at least our derelict villages would be populated though many may be German. We would certainly be a lot better off if the Western Isles were still under Norwegian jurisdiction; we would have missed being used as cannon fodder in Britain's wars and the Highland Clearances and today we would have a large and viable fishing industry."

ELECTRICITY FOR ENGLAND: I believe that Scotland produces enough electricity for our needs. If more power is required in England why not build the windfarms on the Cotswolds Hills or other open areas in the south of England such as Land's End. Not only would this mean power would be nearer the heavily populated areas in the South East but there would not be any need to cover Scotland with ugly transmission lines to take the power south.

POINTS RAISED: I do not belong to any group that is pro or anti windfarms. However, I feel the issues raised should be answered before the Isle of Lewis is eclipsed by windfarms, making millions of pounds for financial speculators and inevitably leading to the extinction of our culture, heritage and the destruction of our landscape.

Donald J. MacLeod

Green 'bribes' costing Scots taxpayers £8m

By **Dean Herbert**

TAXPAYERS have been hit with an £8million bill for a new raft of bizarre green projects, including a "real nappy project" and environmental tips for Scotland's Nepalese community.

While thousands of families struggle through the worst recession in living memory, ministers have unveiled a package of grants for a new wave of eco-friendly projects worth millions of pounds.

Public money will be used to pay for schemes including £84,000 worth of "eco drama productions", £50,000 to provide energy-saving tips to Hindus in Edinburgh and more than £80,000 for a scheme to encourage people in the East End of Glasgow to grow their own vegetables.

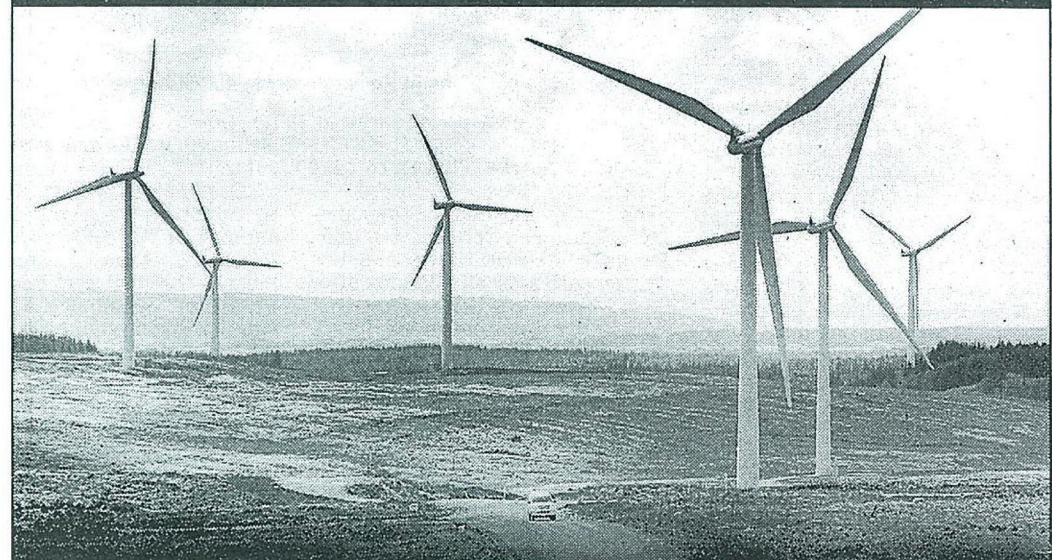
Foolish

The latest raft of grants means the Scottish Government spending £34million since 2008 – around £23,000 a day – providing funding for 130 "foolish" projects.

Documents have revealed that £70,000 worth of taxpayers' cash will be used to fund the Highland Real Nappy Project, while £15,500 will be used to provide green tips to the Nepalese community via a grant to the Nepal Scotland Association.

It comes just months after it emerged that since 2008, ministers have authorised tens of millions of pounds' worth of grants to climate change initiatives such as "therapeutic gar-

MEP DEMANDS AN END TO WINDFARM 'SCANDAL'



A SCOTTISH MEP has urged the EU to pull the plug on £1billion worth of funding for windfarms, insisting they "do not work".

Tory Struan Stevenson told the president of the European Investment Bank (EIB) that the funding of industrial wind developments is "an unfolding financial scandal".

His outburst comes just a day after a study by conservation group the John Muir Trust concluded that windfarms "cannot be relied on" when electricity is most needed. Speaking

at a debate in Brussels on the EIB'S Annual Report yesterday, Mr Stevenson said: "They do not work when the weather is coldest and demand for electricity is at its peak.

"They are not economically viable and will double or triple electricity prices for consumers while failing to cut CO2 emissions."

EIB president Philippe Maystadt said: "We employ over 100 engineers and specialist consultants who are experts in energy efficiency and this is expertise we must exploit."

cerned about the costs of fashionable green policies, said: "If it wasn't that much money it might be amusing.

"But it is a complete and utter waste, it has no effect whatsoever either on the energy nor on the climate – it's a bribe to cooale these groups into

stop ploughing money into foolish projects, under a green guise.

"Taxpayers will wonder whether some of these projects would have got funding if the focus was on results coming out rather than how much money was being put in."

than 300 green projects across the country at a cost of £26million.

Roseanna Cunningham of the SNP defended the spending.

She said: "The Climate Challenge Fund (CCF) continues to inspire communities all over

Letters

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Salmond's wind energy claims so much hot air

JUST how much money is Mr Salmond prepared to waste with his handing over of nearly £1million of taxpayers' money to turn off wind turbines for two days?

("Windfarms paid to cut power", *Scottish Daily Express*, May 2).

We have a couple of days to make up our minds on the question of who gets our vote. We all are aware that the economy and savings on waste are uppermost to get this country back on track, we are all aware of just how badly the Labour party handle the economy, so, is it to be Mr Salmond?

Yes, if you want to continue throwing away good money on his dreams for renewable energy with wind turbines that are already out of date when compared with the latest that can produce three times the output, where he ignores the many experts who explain why his pet scheme will never work but accepts the advice of those that are making large profits from the industry. Yes, vote Salmond for the choice of accepting blackouts or larger electricity bills.

Trevor Downer.
Barrhead

Wind turbines exposed as just a money-spinner

SIX windfarms were given six-figure payments to switch off their turbines because the Scottish grid could not absorb the energy being produced.

I am not surprised since this closure was at night between April 5 and 6 and who uses lots of electricity at night? Operators were paid between four and 20 times the value of the power the windfarms would have produced.

A typical turbine generates £150,000 of electricity but attracts a subsidy of £250,000 every year.

As John Constable of the

LETTER OF THE DAY

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Consumers are being ripped off

LET me see if I've got this straight. Firstly, we consumers subsidise electricity generated by wind turbines to the tune of around 5 pence per unit (kWh), which is hidden in our electricity bills. Then we learn that these turbines produce significantly less than the 30 per cent load factor output claimed by developers, namely around 21-22 per cent.

Now we are told that turbine owners are being paid huge sums of money for NOT operating their turbines. Little wonder that our bills are ramping up!

When will our politicians bring an end to this economic madness which is desecrating ever larger swathes of our countryside for little or no tangible benefit?

GM Lindsay, Kinross Wind turbines require heavy subsidies from consumers



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Power line cost hits £600m

By Dean Herbert

ALEX Salmond's green energy plans suffered a blow yesterday when it emerged that work to connect wind farms to the National Grid will run almost £300million over budget.

The bill for upgrading a major power line to allow it to carry energy generated by wind and wave farms has rocketed by more than 80 per cent to £600million over six years.

The costs are expected to be passed on to householders in the form of soaring gas and electricity bills as energy companies and suppliers try to claw back losses.

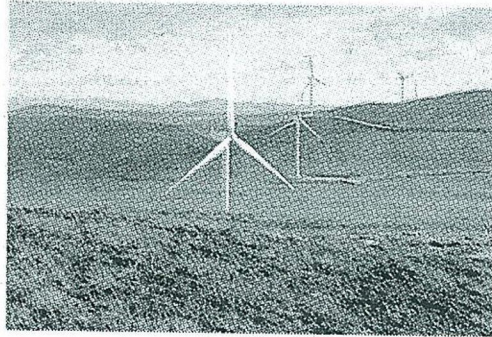
Energy companies building the controversial Beaulieu-Denny power line say the rising prices of steel and cables have forced them to almost double spending on the project.

Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE), responsible for building and preparing 90 per cent of the Beaulieu-Denny line, has seen its costs rise from £245million to £458million.

ScottishPower's share of the costs is understood to have risen from £78million to more than £100million since 2005.

Details of the increasing costs of building the line came as the First Minister insisted that Scotland is on

NOISY HIGHLAND WIND FARM FORCED TO TURN OFF THE TURBINES



The 23 turbines at Achany are silent – for now

A WIND farm has been forced to close down after householders complained it made too much noise.

Residents in the tiny Highland hamlet of Achany, Sutherland, say their lives have been made "unbearable" by the noise of the 23 turbines spinning near their homes.

The £55million development had come under increasing pressure to reduce the amount of noise it generated since opening last July. Highland

Council have now responded to the villagers' pleas and served a temporary ban on the wind farm.

The stop notice will remain in place for a month, with the shutdown representing a huge financial loss to power company Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE).

Local resident Andy Simpson said the noise from the turbines "made life unbearable at times".

He added: "I'm really

pleased that Highland Council have done the right thing.

"However, it gives me grave concern that a developer appears to have dismissed a genuine noise complaint."

The unprecedented banning order is now expected to lead to similar challenges by residents at other wind farm developments.

An SSE spokeswoman said: "We are confident that we can reach an agreement with the council very quickly."

course to generate all electricity from renewable sources by 2020.

But the new figures have reinforced fears that Mr Salmond's obsession with green energy will lead to blackouts and soaring household energy bills.

John Constable, director of policy and research for the Renewable Energy Foundation, said: "Wind may be free, but converting it to usable energy most certainly is not, and the prospect of significant price impacts

on business and domestic consumers alike puts a large question mark over the sustainability of current renewable energy policies."

It comes just months after Rupert Soames, chief executive of Glasgow-based energy firm Aggreko, warned ministers that the country faces "lights out" if they do not ditch wind turbines and wave power for nuclear power. And industry regulator Ofgem recently claimed that struggling families will see their average

annual power bills soar from an average of £1,200 to £1,500 to finance dozens of wind and wave farms.

The 137-mile Beaulieu-Denny line was approved by SNP ministers last year, despite opponents saying pylons up to 217ft high would be a "scar" on some of Scotland's best-loved landscapes, including parts of the Cairngorm National Park.

It also emerged that subsidies paid to wind farms to switch off turbines could top £60million before

the line is completed in 2014. At present, power from wind farms cannot be stored and feeding it into the National Grid is complex and costly.

But at the launch of two wind farms in Ayrshire on Wednesday, Mr Salmond insisted: "I am confident we will achieve our target for Scotland to generate from renewables the equivalent of 100 per cent of our electricity needs by 2020."

OPINION: PAGE 12

keep our homes warm in winter

OVER the past week we have experienced some of the strongest winds in years, ferocious enough to blow down mature trees, topple chimneys, shut motorways, close bridges and cause mayhem across much of Scotland and the north of England. One man, however, must have been rather pleased.

A near neighbour has erected a wind turbine in his garden which stands about 30 feet high. In the 18 months or so since it was installed, it has signally failed to do its job, which, obviously, is to whizz round and produce cheap electricity. Last week, however, it worked and, presumably, it has finally made my neighbour's efforts worthwhile.

I only mention this as we now learn that Scotland – where our new Government plans to generate all the electricity we require from renewables within less than 10 years – is stuck in the middle of a decades-long lull in overall wind speeds.

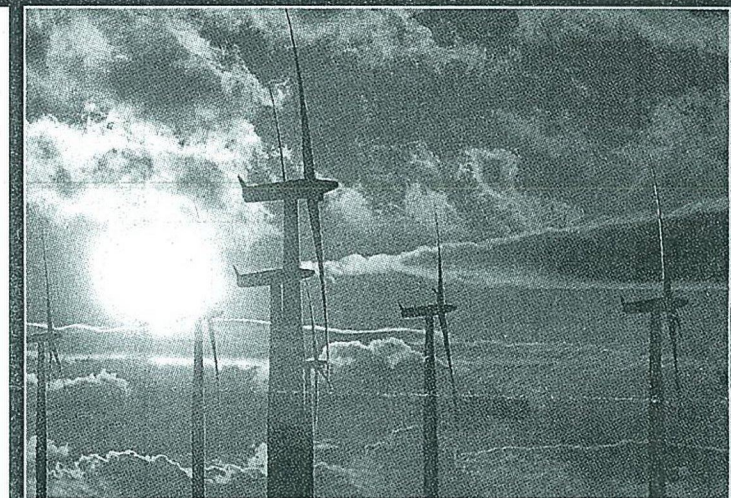
Known in media jargon as the “breeze freeze”, it calls into question all the planning by Alex Salmond’s administration to turn Scotland into the “hi-tech workshop of the world”.

Not that most people believed the SNP leader’s projections in the first place, especially after they watched the hundreds of giant turbines which now festoon our hills standing stock still for weeks on end when we were desperate for all the energy we could get – to keep warm – during the record cold snap that made last winter so bloody.

LUCKILY, we still had plenty of the essential ingredients for keeping our lights on and the central heating pumping – nuclear and fossil-fuel energy. As for the wind turbines, their contribution to our wellbeing was negligible. Imagine what it would be like in 2020 if today’s Nationalists get their way.

Last winter’s record tumble in temperatures and lack of wind could not have been predicted and the Scottish Government could reasonably argue that these latest predictions of a “breeze freeze” may be just as much a case of pseudo-scientific hot air.

Given the hysteria over global warming, they would probably be right, but the point is that weather predictions are



WIND POWER: It is unreliable and there is no way to store energy produced



Kerry Gill
Scottish Political Editor

notoriously inaccurate and, anyway, the climate is fickle, unlike the certainties of conventional sources of energy, global political considerations apart.

When it comes to energy supply, it seems only sensible to keep as many options up your sleeve as possible. At one time, it was thought that gas would account for the bulk of our electricity generation; 20 years ago, almost half of Scotland’s electricity came from nuclear power stations. In the case of gas, someone had forgotten that most of our gas would have to be imported and, as the Russians demonstrated last winter, those vital supplies could be switched off at any time.

With up to 75 per cent of Britain’s gas likely to come from imports by 2015 – up from just over 30 per cent in 2007 – you can see the problems of too much reliance on imported fuel.

The nuclear option is the more reliable source, but there are the constant arguments over the potential dangers. Despite all the evidence showing that the fears over nuclear are largely unfounded – as the re-

cent events in Japan demonstrated – the industry will never entirely free itself from the public’s worries, constantly stoked by anti-nuclear propagandists.

That’s why, no doubt, Germany yesterday announced it will be the first major industrialised power to shut down all its nuclear plants, with the last to be closed by 2022.

Some countries, however, take a calmer view. France, for example, relies on nuclear plants for almost 80 per cent of its electricity. Others with a strong reliance on nuclear include the US, China, Russia, India and Japan – all booming economies. Italy has none and has become the biggest importer of electricity. Draw your own conclusions.

No one is actually opposed to wind power – the Holy Grail of energy must be securing it from the elements for as near free as is possible – it is just that the technology to make it efficient and continually reliable remains a very long way off.

Wind turbines can spin for all they are worth when the wind is right but, once the wind drops, so obviously does the energy produced. As yet, there

is no way of storing wind energy, unlike that produced by gas, coal or nuclear.

The trouble is that the more the Nationalists rail against nuclear, and insist that their all-renewable policy by 2020 is the only way forward, the more you get the impression that this is a Government which places its own narrow political ideology before ensuring we are given the cheapest, cleanest and most reliable energy possible.

THE possibility that Alex Salmond may relent and agree to hedge his bets by commissioning a couple of new nuclear plants is now more remote than ever. His Government is as all-powerful as any can be given the checks of our democracy, hardly the time to listen to the mounting swell of doubt over one of his most precious policies.

A possible lack of wind will be dismissed as airy as any of the arguments for a more balanced energy policy. For the Scottish public, as 2020 draws ever nearer, the huge gap between Nationalist ideology and reality gets ever wider.

It is not, as they say, a question of the lights going out, but that the SNP, or whoever is in power come 2020, may well have to alter Scotland’s energy policy double quick and go cap in hand to England, or France, or the Russians, or, indeed, my clever neighbour.

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Scotland's 30bn offshore bounty Heralded as the future of our energy

0 Comments | Sunday Herald, The, Oct 25, 2009 | by Steven Vass

SCOTTISH Gas owner Centrica might be best known for supplying blue flames to kitchen hobs, but the flickers of excitement surrounding the company are of a very different order at the moment.

Centrica is in late-stage negotiations with some of Europe's foremost bankers to put together a financing package for two offshore wind farms off the coast of Humberside called Inner Dowsing and Lynn, plus a small onshore Aberdeenshire wind farm called Glens of Foudland. The circa L325 million deal, concerning 200MW of output, is thought to involve a syndicate of more than a dozen banks including Lloyds and HSBC. While it might sound like merely the latest big dollop of money bound for the renewables industry, it is actually the first time that any offshore wind project has succeeded in borrowing serious amounts of money in the UK.

Having dreamed of endless rows of turbines far out at sea, each the height of the Wallace Monument, the offshore wind industry has had a bad credit crunch. It already looked like a logistical nightmare to build more than 300 of these giant structures around the coastline and connect them to the grid onshore, but last year the banks became so nervous that they wouldn't lend to respectable home buyers, let alone enormously risky new industries. This was dreadful timing for the UK government, which had set targets to build 33GW of offshore wind farms by 2020, much of which was expected to require bank loans.

Now that the Centrica deal suggests that things might finally be looking up, industry debate rages about how optimistic to be about the future. Do we face years of grindingly slow progress and target failures, or is this the beginning of a new phase that is about to explode into life? Unbeknown to most of us, offshore wind has actually been building up a head of steam since the start of the decade. Mainland wind farms and their battles with local protesters might have seen most of the headlines, but the first few demonstration offshore farms started quietly appearing five or six years ago. In the Moray Firth in Scotland, two vast turbines were erected next to the Beatrice oil field by Talisman Energy and Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE), while slightly larger installations were put up in Inner Dowsing and Lynn

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Blow for green energy as wind farms are exposed as unreliable

THE unreliability of wind power in Britain has been exposed in a shock report issued by environmentalists.

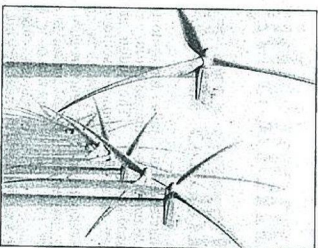
Over the past two years UK wind turbines metered by the National Grid ran at just 10 per cent of capacity for more than one-third of the time.

And they ran at less than 20 per cent of their capacity for more than half the time, it was claimed. Yet the Government is committed to building thousands more taxpayer-subsidised wind turbines in the quest for greener energy.

The report, carried out by consultant Stuart Young for conservation charity the John Muir Trust, said wind power "cannot be relied on" when electricity is most needed.

It said that once a week on average the wind dropped so low that the turbines produced enough energy for "a mere 6,267 households to boil their kettles for a cup of tea".

During the four highest peak demands last year, the best wind could manage was 3.5 per cent of capacity.



Wind turbines are accused of destroying wildlife

There were 124 separate occasions from November 2008 till December 2010 when total generation from wind farms metered by the National Grid was less than 1.25 per cent of nominal capacity.

The report, entitled Analysis Of UK Wind Generation, also rejected the industry claim that wind farms generate on average 30 per

cent of capacity. It found 1 average output from wind was per cent of metered capacity 2009 and 21.1 per cent last year. It concluded: "It is clear in this analysis that wind cannot be relied upon to provide any significant level of generation at a defined time in the future."

"There is an urgent need to evaluate the implications of reliance on wind for any significant proportion of our energy requirements."

The John Muir Trust was founded in 1983 to safeguard wild land against development and fought wind farm schemes in sensitive areas. Mr Young said: "The intermittent nature of wind gives rise to low wind coinciding with high energy demand."

"Sadly, wind power is not what it's cracked up to be."

Michael Hird, for anti-wind farm campaigners Country Guardian said: "The countryside is being industrialised for a technology that doesn't work."

"If we rely on wind power for energy we are living in cloud cuckoo land."

Inefficient windfarms 'raise cost of energy'

DISTURBING figures released yesterday showed UK windfarms last year operated at only 24 per cent of their capacity.

And during the bitter pre-Christmas period the figure fell as low as 5.3 per cent efficiency because there was so little wind.

Last week the Renewable Energy Foundation, which carried out the research, said reliance on wind power will lead to higher prices for consumers.

It also means conventional power stations will be needed to provide back-up.

Report co-author Dr John Constable, said: "Wind power can be highly variable."

He warned this meant the UK would never be able to dramatically cut conventional generation.

And he added: "The result of such uncertainties is higher prices to consumer."

Michael Hird of anti-windfarm group Country Guardian said: "This means spending billions to provide conventional power stations for when the windfarms are not

INTERNATIONAL Express 12-18 April 2011

+
extra

OUR COMMUNITY

Carbon atoms don't follow politics

I'VE always loved the phrase "the dogs bark, but the caravan moves on". This one feels very apt when it comes to the whole business of climate change.

Despite all the "barking", greenhouse gases keep accumulating in the atmosphere. Carbon atoms don't follow politics.

They just party on, welcoming newcomers.

The other day scientist and author Tim Flannery said that if we stopped pumping carbon into the atmosphere today, it would take a thousand years or so for the earth to cool to pre-industrial levels.

This was immediately leapt on as another reason to do nothing. Why wreck our economy for something that might



Climate change

happen at a time we can barely imagine?

But Flannery was simply presenting the science. Once carbon gets into the atmosphere, it takes a very long time to dissipate.

What Flannery means is that while it's almost impossible to reverse the damage we've done, we can stop making it worse.

If we stop now, we'll still have climate

change. But if we stop or slow down now, it won't be as bad.

We need a global commitment, and the countries with the highest per capita emissions (that's us) need to be part of the solution, not part of the problem.

The good news is that people around the world are insisting on doing something about the problem. Earth Hour (celebrated in our house with all the lights off but the TV still going – missing election coverage was just too hard a call) caused a huge dip in energy consumption in Sydney.

Around the world, 134 countries took part, including about 10 million Australians.

Meanwhile, great strides continue to be made in renewable energy.

Here in Bathurst, we'll have the opportunity to listen to a key player in wind farm energy when Jonathan Upson, senior development manager of Infigen Energy, addresses a public meeting at the Bathurst RSL on Thursday, April 28 at 5pm.

Mr Upson will talk about the success of wind energy overseas and give a brief overview of the technology.

He will talk about the wholesale market and how a price on carbon would affect renewable energy.

He will also "explode wind energy myths". All are welcome.

– Tracy Sorensen is the publicity officer for Bathurst Community Climate Action Network (BCCAN). Visit www.bccan.org.au

Wind turbines pick up £2.6m for standing idle

**Jonathan Leake
and Mark Macaskill**

WIND farm operators were paid £2.6m to keep their turbines idle last month in the latest stealth charge on household power bills.

Scottish Power, which last week announced price rises averaging 10% for electricity and 19% for gas, was one of the firms paid to switch off turbines. It received approximately £720,000.

National Grid, which

operates Britain's main power and gas transmission networks, admitted it made the payments, which are paid for by the consumer.

It blamed lulls in demand during May, an unusually warm month, which meant there were times when energy generated by wind farms was not needed. It said efforts to update the power network had not kept pace with the construction of wind farms.

When The Sunday Times first revealed last month that

wind farms were being paid to turn off their turbines, the National Grid claimed the £900,000 payments were exceptional. Charles Hendry, the energy minister, also described them as an "anomaly".

Now research carried out by the Renewable Energy Foundation (REF) reveals four energy companies were paid to switch off turbines on 16 occasions in May.

The most expensive shutdown occurred on May 24,

when seven wind farms came off-line for a total of 69 hours at a cost to the grid of £613,000.

The 52-turbine Hadyard Hill wind farm in south Ayrshire was affected more frequently than any other. Its operator, Scottish and Southern Energy, was paid a total of £1m to shut the site for the equivalent of six days in May.

Scottish Power was paid about £720,000 for shutting three wind farms, including Whitelee in Ayrshire, the largest onshore wind farm in

Europe. RWE npower renewables was paid about £573,000 and Falck Renewable more than £246,000.

On one occasion infrastructure problems meant Scotland needed to buy energy from England while — perversely — two Scottish wind farms were paid about £34,000 to power down.

The payments raise questions about whether thousands of new onshore turbines planned for Scotland can be justified.

National Grid defended the £2.6m payments, saying wind farm operators were paid to shut down as their output could be more easily managed than other energy providers, such as nuclear plants.

John Constable, of the REF, said: "It is clear the grid is struggling to integrate the existing wind farms at reasonable cost to the consumer. There appears to be an expensive mismatch between political rhetoric and engineering reality."

Storm brewing over plans to expand wind farm



» CONT
Opera
are consider
the Scout M

■ Energy firm looks into adding to 26 turbines

■ Campaigners vow to fight growth of moor site

KATIE FITZPATRICK

THE operators of a massive wind farm are considering controversial plans to expand their hill-top operation.

Peel Energy is considering building more turbines at their Scout Moor site, which is already England's largest on-wind farm.

Plans have been carried out

into the possibility of expanding the 26-turbine development on the hills above Rochdale which produces enough electricity to supply 28,000 homes.

Peel Energy project director Jon England says Scout Moor has consistently generated large amounts of renewable electricity since it opened in September 2008. He said: "Peel Energy is committed to contributing towards the government's aim to generate as much as 35 per cent of all our electricity from renewable sources by 2020, so we are always appraising options that might be available."

"We have considered whether it might be possible to add fur-

ther generating capacity to Scout Moor Wind Farm and we have commissioned some studies to that effect. At this stage, though, nothing more has been decided."

Coun Ann Metcalfe, who led a

325ft

Height of Scout Moor turbines

four-year campaign against the wind farm, said she would fight any plans to build more turbines.

She said: "I am desperately saddened by the thought because the turbines have com-

pletely ruined the moors. They have ruined the skyline to a great extent and now they want more. Sometimes only a small percentage of them are working. I would object to any extension to the number of turbines. I wouldn't sit back and let it happen."

The 325ft high turbines were built on 1,347 acres of open moorland. They are two-thirds the size of Blackpool Tower and are visible from up to 20 miles away.

Coun Metcalfe's campaign attracted support from the botanist and environmental campaigner David Bellamy, but despite opposition planning permission was granted in 2005.

and complete destruction of a peaceful life for those who are unable to move. All because of completely brainless decisions made by politician trying to placate green voters who will never have to put up with a mass of turbines woofing and grinding above their homes to produce a very limited amount of energy.

Posted by **William Bunter**, 6/06/2011 12:47:42 AM, on Yass Tribune

Is it not strange that the Wind Farm proponents seem to be in hiding now that there is so much damning evidence mounting up against so many operating windfarms across southeastern Australia driving people from their homes if they can afford to relocate or causing immense distress and complete destruction of a peaceful life for those who are unable to move. All because of completely brainless decisions made by politician trying to placate green voters who will never have to put up with a mass of turbines woofing and grinding above their homes to produce a very limited amount of energy.

Posted by **William Bunter**, 6/06/2011 12:48:15 AM, on Yass Tribune

There is not a word about wind turbines being good for your health or the productivity of farm animals. Strange isn't it?

Why else are these neatly, legally forced acquisitions necessary?

Posted by **George**, 6/06/2011 8:40:20 PM, on Yass Tribune

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The Clean Energy Council responds to a speech by federal Member for Hume Alby Schultz.

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Alby Schultz

Response to Alby Schultz's federal wind turbine speech

CLEAN ENERGY COUNCIL

31 May, 2011 02:56 PM

Capacity of wind farms:

On average, the annual global capacity of wind energy has grown about 30 per cent every year since 2000.

Compulsory acquisition of properties for wind farms:

It is not a common practice for a wind farm developer to compulsorily acquire properties as part of the planning process.

In terms of the Gullen Range Wind Farm, the Land and Environment Court's decision to approve the project recognised that there will be residual impacts on some landowners.

One of the conditions of consent provides the owners of seven nearby properties (consisting of 15 lots in total) the option to have their properties acquired by the project proponent, should they wish.

Gullen Range Wind Farm Pty Ltd is currently following the process set out by the Land and Environment Court that provides the landowners a voluntary option to sell their property to the proponent, should they wish.

Capacity of wind farms:

NSW coal-fired power stations convert 29 per cent to 37 per cent of the coal into electricity, and NSW gas plants convert 32 per cent to 50 per cent of gas processed into electricity. Wind turbines convert around 45 per cent of the wind through the blades into electricity (and almost 50 per cent at peak efficiency).

Large wind turbines operate less of the time than NSW coal plants but they are more efficient at generating electricity.

Greenhouse benefits:

Electricity generation is responsible for over a third of Australian and NSW greenhouse gas emissions, largely because of a heavy reliance on fossil fuels in power generation.

In NSW, on average, a 150 megawatt wind farm (the standard size of wind farms currently under development in NSW) produces enough electricity to power almost 60,000 homes – saving on average 360,000 tonnes of greenhouse emissions annually.

Reliability of wind as source of energy:

Coal-fired power stations can be turned down when they are not required to operate at full capacity because the wind is blowing strongly.

A wind farm produces more energy in less than a year of operation, than used during its construction.

All forms of power are backed up by Australia's national electricity grid.

In the event of a power plant outage of any kind, whether a coal-fired power plant or a renewable energy source, there is enough backup so that the lights don't go out.

There are ups and downs in electricity usage every day and the national grid is a dynamic system that can respond to these changes at the lowest cost.

Wind energy is effective and it produces large amounts of electricity that would otherwise have to be delivered by fossil fuel energy sources such as coal or gas.

Back-up (or reserve) generation is needed to support fluctuating demand and supply from all forms for electricity generation (not just wind).

We now have less spinning reserve on our network than since the NEM was created despite deploying nearly 2GW of wind power.

An analysis for the CEC indicated that we would need to build less gas (and other fossil fuelled) plants as a result of the 20 per cent renewable energy target.

- 1 [PS cuts for Canberra](#)
- 2 [Samantha Harris: A breathtaking inspiration](#)
- 3 ["Bulli Blaster" Shannan Taylor fighting for life in hospital](#)
- 4 [Civic restaurant manager hits out at raid](#)
- 5 [Teen girl charged after police chase](#)

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I wish the Clean Energy Council would stop treating us like fools. It's not a complex search to discover that 54% of their Board of Directors are employed by Wind Developers and that 23% of their entire funding is derived from the Wind Industry (www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au).

As with most intending to Host Turbines their main focus is revenue raising, whilst hosts are led down a golden path including promises of \$20-30k per turbine, per annum (if the wind blows and Government subsidies don't dry up of course) the Clean Energy Council is also chasing large amounts of cash in the form of Federal Govt subsidies and rebates.

If Turbines were truly the answer, I'd reluctantly pack up my family and move on, the fact is, the industry is yet to prove Turbines are the answer to any form of alternative power generation with emission reductions worthy of the pain (Health, Property Value and Power Prices).

Posted by **Mike**, 1/06/2011 3:06:36 PM, on Yass Tribune
What the?

Come on people!

Do we want renewable energy or not?

Or do we only want renewable energy if it doesn't mess up our view?

If we do, then it has to be implemented somewhere.

Wind energy should be deployed where there is wind, surely?

The Hume electorate is very windy - as can be gathered from all of the hot air blowing through the lips of those who oppose renewable energy in the Hume electorate.

I suspect the people complaining are the ones who have the money to choose to install solar panels and mini wind turbines on their farms anyway. Most of us don't have the luxury of being able to choose our renewable energy source.

Most of us just want the nation to increase renewable energy and if that means it is introduced near us - then go for it!

Posted by **What The?**, 1/06/2011 3:52:28 PM, on Yass Tribune
No!! we dont want wind!

It costs a fortune, is utterly useless at reducing ghg emissions, has proven environmental problems and can't be relied upon for a secure supply so for every MW you build you have to ensure there's enough to back it up (& that is fossil fuel in Australia). So no fossil fuel power stations will or have ever been shutdown due to wind.

CO2 avoidance cost of wind is just going to send those bills through the roof! Lots of lovely money / subsidies for the wind farm developers tho....

<http://bravenewclimate.com/2011/05/21/co2-avoidance-cost-wind/>

Posted by **DB**, 1/06/2011 8:38:12 PM, on Yass Tribune
wind turbines have had their day and the CEC should wake up to the silent majority that had exposed this scam

Posted by **Candice walker**, 2/06/2011 10:11:05 AM, on Yass Tribune
google waubra wind farm contract of Aciona fame or Stockyard Hill wind farm contract of Origin energy fame to see the dodgy deals in these contracts. Any solicitor will tell you they are a scam

Posted by **Tim**, 2/06/2011 10:13:07 AM, on Yass Tribune
time to dump the wind turbine gig, its been exposed as a fraud and the key driver in higher power bills to everyone to support this dud of an industry

Posted by **Austin**, 2/06/2011 10:14:33 AM, on Yass Tribune
Oh come on, the clean energy council are on their spin to win mission again.

The clean energy council is nothing but a taxpayer funded money sucker.

If wind turbines actually worked well why would they need to be subsidised so highly?

These clowns have been telling untruths to the public for years in a effort to get more public money. Enough is enough.

If you want renewable energy then put up your own solar panel or personal turbine and stop asking for handouts.

Posted by **mick**, 2/06/2011 10:42:13 AM, on Yass Tribune
Is it not strange that the Wind Farm Proponents seem to be in hiding now that there is so much Damming evidence mounting up against against so many operating Windfarms across southeastern Australia driving people from their homes, if they can afford to relocate, or causing immense distress

Wind's contribution to the rising cost of electricity:

Recent review of NSW electricity pricing by IPART confirmed that the major driver of electricity price rises in NSW is need for investment in the network infrastructure, not deployment of wind turbines.

Community views about wind turbines:

In 2010, the NSW Government commissioned a survey of more than 2,000 residents and 300 businesses in regional areas of NSW on attitudes to wind farms and renewable energy.

In NSW, 85 per cent of residents supported wind farms. 80 per cent of local residents with wind farms in their local community supported wind farms, 79 per cent of residents within a 10km radius of a wind farm supported wind farms.

Confidentiality agreements between landholders and wind developers:

It is common practice for confidentiality agreements to be included as part of any business transaction, for example worker's agreements, sale of businesses and other financial transactions.



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The Next Steps

How to speak to us

Timeline – Looking Forward

2011

UP TO APRIL 2011: Environmental Impact Assessment Studies and Surveys

THROUGHOUT 2011: Community Information Events

SPRING 2011: Installation of wind monitoring masts

SUMMER 2011: Submission to The Scottish Government of the Stornoway Wind Farm Planning Application, accompanied by the Environmental Statement

SUMMER 2011 – SUMMER 2012: The Scottish Government consultation with statutory consultees and the public

SUMMER 2012: Expected determination from The Scottish Government

If the project is approved, the forward programme will be:

SUMMER 2012:

Procurement

Engineering and Pre-Construction Studies

Public Exhibitions on Construction Methodology

Formation of the Community Trust

2013 – 2015:

Construction of the Stornoway Wind Farm

OCTOBER 2015:

Stornoway Wind Farm generates electricity

2015

We plan to host further community information sessions throughout 2011. We will keep our website updated with the current information. So far we have arranged events for the following locations and dates:

Toista Primary School - Tuesday 22nd March

Back School - Wednesday 23rd March

Breasclete Community Centre - Wednesday 30th March

Ionad Stoodie, Garrabost, Point - Thursday 31st March

Stornoway Primary School - Tuesday 12th April

Laxdale Primary School - Thursday 14th April

Sandwick Community Centre - Monday 18th April

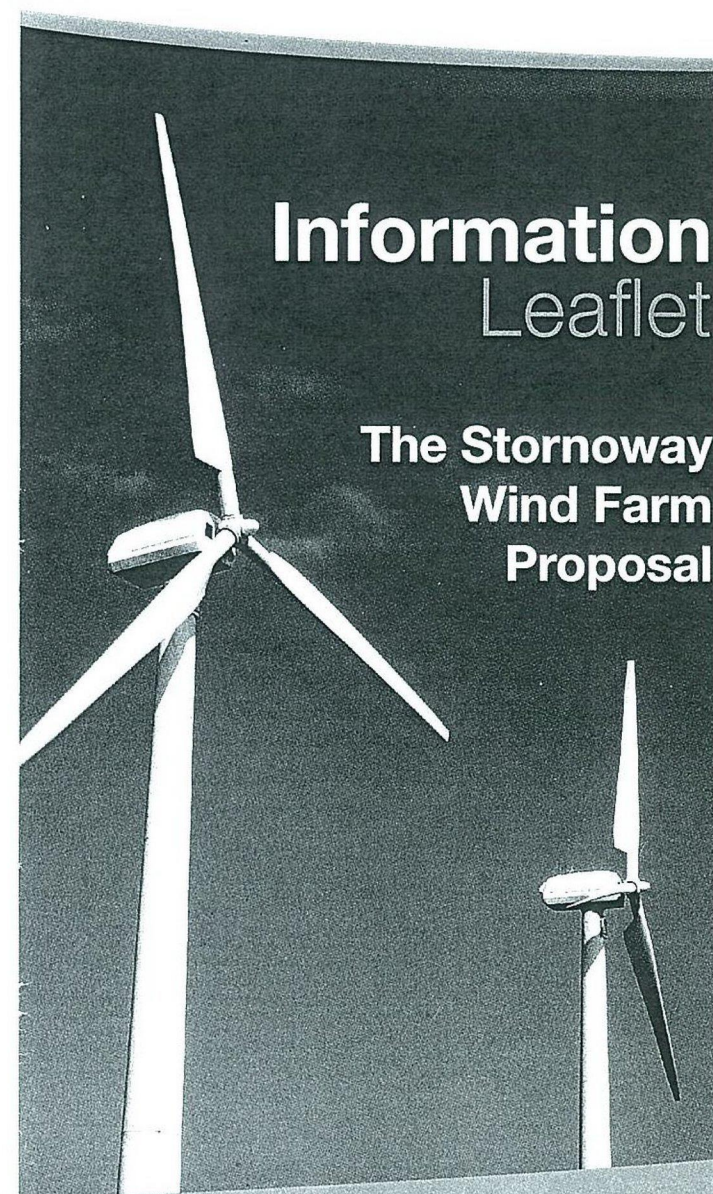
We welcome your views and comments, and we hope you can attend one of the forthcoming information sessions. You can also contact David Morrison, the Community Consultation Manager:

Tel no: 01851 700024

Write to: The Stornoway Trust, Leverhulme House, Perceval Square, Stornoway, HS1 2DD

Email: david@stornowaytrust.org.uk

www.stornowaywind.com



Stornoway Wind Farm

Lewis Wind Power, in partnership with the Stornoway Trust, are working together to make best use of the Western Isles' globally significant renewable resources.

Our Site

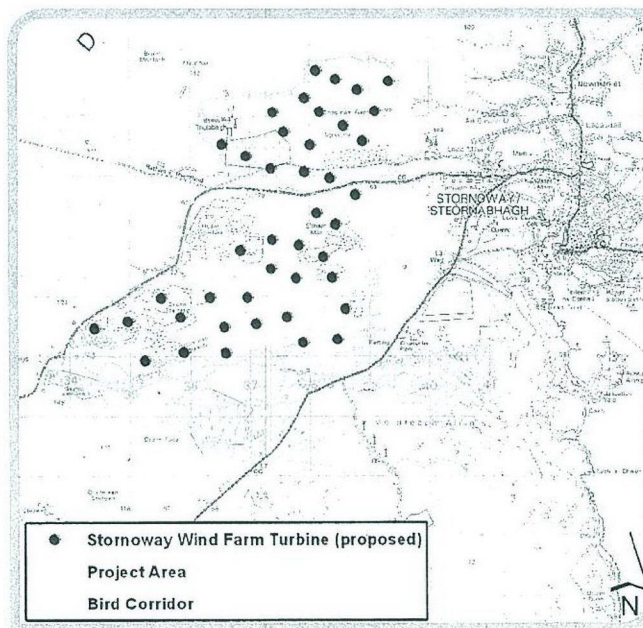
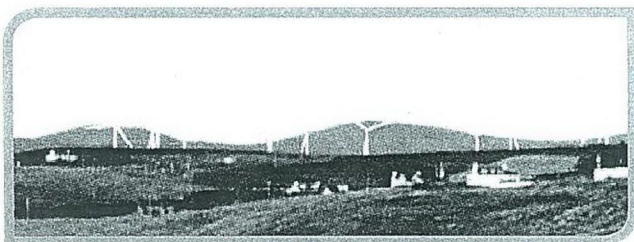
The site for the Stornoway Wind Farm takes into consideration guidance from key stakeholders and The Scottish Government 2009 Study Work.

The layout (overleaf) shows the proposed 42 wind turbines. These could produce enough power to supply up to 75,000 homes. Depending on the type of turbine used, this will give an installed capacity of 126 – 150 MW, with a tip height up to 144m. The overall development area is approximately 17km².

We have adopted best practice in our design, including ensuring a suitable distance from roads, existing overhead lines and watercourses. A minimum distance of 1.5km (0.9 miles) is observed from the nearest residential property.

Landscape and Visual Impact

Viewpoints have been selected through discussion with The Stornoway Trust, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). Photomontages are created for each of these viewpoints, to assess the visual impact the proposed wind farm will have on its surroundings.



Coordinate System: British National Grid. © Crown Copyright 2009.
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The Environment

Ornithology

Through consultation with SNH, we have established a 'Bird Corridor' to preserve important feeding/migrating routes for birds and in particular Black Throated Divers.

Fisheries

Local rivers have been assessed in co-operation with the Outer Hebrides Fisheries Trust. This has helped us to protect sensitive spawning sites through careful design and location of stream and river crossings. We have maintained a generous distance from the Creed and Laxdale rivers.

Peatland

The development area is mostly covered by blanket peat and its characteristic moss and lichen vegetation. To minimise disturbance to sensitive peatlands, we have located infrastructure in areas of shallow peat and land that has been previously drained.

Construction Methodology

The project will be respectful to the local community during construction. Work will not be undertaken on Sundays and traffic impacts will be minimised. All work will be undertaken to the highest professional and safety standards.

Subsea Interconnector

In order for Scottish and Southern Energy and National Grid to proceed with the subsea interconnector, they require large projects, like the Stornoway Wind Farm, to underwrite the cost of the cable. The subsea interconnector could bring significant economic benefits to the Western Isles.

The Community Fund

The Stornoway Trust, in consultation with the local community, will set up a Community Trust, which will administer the Community Fund.

An annual payment of £4,000 per installed MW will be made over the 25 year lifetime of the wind farm. This figure is index linked.

For a 150 MW wind farm, this equates to an annual payment of £600,000 to the Community Fund, which will benefit the local area.

Employment Benefits

We estimate that the wind farm will need a capital investment of around £200 million. The skills and services that will be required during construction include civil engineering, project management, haulage, fabrication, electrical engineering, accommodation, retail and leisure.

We plan to work in partnership with local businesses so that they can take advantage of this opportunity.

October 2010

Stornoway Wind Farm Proposal

Dear resident

we never received
a letter or any info
on this project for
Fixers Creek

I am writing to you on behalf of Lewis Wind Power to let you know that we are currently developing proposals for a new wind farm development within 28.6km² of Stornoway Trust land, lying to the west of Stornoway town. You may be aware that this land was identified as providing the best opportunity for wind energy development in the Scottish Government's 2009 'Economic and Community Benefit Study' produced by their consultants Halcrow. The aim of that report was to help the Western Isles gain economic and community development from its abundant renewable energy resources.

We believe that this development in partnership with the Stornoway Trust and in conjunction with renewable energy developers AMEC and EDF, will bring much needed investment into the Stornoway Trust Estate and the Isle of Lewis.

Our plans are at a very early stage which means that we are keen to hear your views and those of the wider community as these will be important in the design of the wind farm layout and other key details, with the aim of maximising benefits to the local community.

Since the land was identified by Halcrow, we have been undertaking a range of bird and habitat surveys in order to identify suitable locations for the wind turbines and other development infrastructure. These surveys are important in establishing environmental constraints and we have now submitted our Environmental Impact Assessment Request for Scoping Opinion to the Scottish Government for their consideration.

The publication of this document starts the process of consultation on the further development of this new wind farm and we hope to be making further announcements in the coming weeks about wider community consultations and workshops at which we want to listen to your views and understand local issues.

We aim to ensure that from the outset that we keep all residents in the area informed of developments. You can also find out more at our website, www.stornowaywind.com, which will contain information such as the Halcrow report referred to above, a map of the potential site and other information. In the meanwhile, please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information at this stage.

Yours sincerely



Ronald D Peddie
Project Director, Lewis Wind Power