

There is no economic case for building Crookwell 3, though the project does keep some consultants employed. It is harmful to the local area and, were it ever built, would be harmful to NSW and would impose increasing costs on power consumers in NSW.

There are multiple reasons why it is strategically damaging to NSW and none of them are discussed in the alleged Environmental Assessment:

- There are already more than enough wind farms in the national pipeline.
- The US, under President-elect Trump, has just turned away from “renewable energy” and back to fossil fuels changing the global competitive environment to pursue cheap, reliable energy – countries that do not will see their economies and employment weaken further.
- C3WF would be a threat to the NSW electricity network and increase the likelihood of future blackouts, particularly given the proposed location.

Oversupplied Pipeline

The National Wind Farm Commissioner has said the amount of “renewable energy” projects in the pipeline is something like three times what is necessary to meet the RET. There is thus no need for C3WF. Hopefully DPE has the data but let me know if you don’t.

It is clear from AEMO that meeting any future electricity generation shortfall depends on baseload, available on-demand, capacity and that wind energy inherently cannot provide such power. Consequently it is an indulgence at the expense of electricity consumers rather than a real contribution to providing reliable power.

Any wind farm capacity has to be fully backed up by either baseload capacity or gas-fired turbines. In either case it means paying for duplicated capacity and the cost falls on NSW electricity consumers. It is the responsibility of the NSW Government to ensure cheap, reliable power to its citizens and industry, not to dramatically increase their costs and reduce energy security for the purpose of lining the pockets of overseas exploiters.

Dramatic change in the global competitive environment

The US has just elected a Republican President, supported by Republican control of both houses of Congress, who is committed to massively boosting US extraction and consumption of fossil fuels – which destroys the future of “renewable energy” in the US and then globally.

It also means that soon the US will join China and India in producing increased volumes of CO₂. That means all countries reducing the use of fossil fuels will become less economically competitive globally and the comparative living standards of their citizens will decline.

It is the responsibility of the Government of NSW to recognise this change and start to protect its people. Neither NSW nor Australia can “save the planet” when the US, China, India and most of the world are unrestrained in their emissions of CO₂.

President Trump’s position can no longer be treated as campaign rhetoric. The transition site established, since his election, for actions and policies to now be implemented contains the statement:

“Rather than continuing the current path to undermine and block America’s fossil fuel producers, the Trump Administration will encourage the production of these resources by opening onshore and offshore leasing on federal lands and waters. We will streamline the permitting process for all energy projects, including the billions of dollars in projects held up by President Obama, and rescind the job-destroying executive actions under his Administration. We will end the war on coal, and rescind the coal mining lease moratorium, the excessive Interior Department stream rule, and conduct a top-down review of all anti-coal regulations issued by the Obama Administration. We will eliminate the highly invasive "Waters of the US" rule, and scrap the \$5 trillion dollar Obama-Clinton Climate Action Plan and the Clean Power Plan and prevent these unilateral plans from increasing monthly electric bills by double-digits without any measurable effect on Earth’s climate.”¹

Note the statement not just to unleash coal and oil but the intention to “scrap the \$5 trillion dollar Obama-Clinton Climate Action Plan and the Clean Power Plan” and the statement they have no “measurable effect on Earth’s climate”.

The Paris Accord was propped up by President Obama agreeing that China and India could burn all the fossil fuel they wanted while the US would reduce its CO2 emissions. That “agreement” was never a US Treaty since Obama did not take it to the US Senate for ratification (he knew it would not pass), something constitutionally necessary for a US Treaty. Consequently it is simply an agreement between Obama and whatever countries dumb enough to sign it and can legally be repudiated by another President any time he wishes. President Trump has made clear he will do so soon after taking office on January 20, 2017.

Threat to Electricity Security for NSW

The recent statewide blackout in South Australia has shown the dire consequences of becoming heavily dependent on wind power, especially when the generation facilities are concentrated in a small geographic area. The Eastern power grid is about to become more at risk with the closure of Hazelwood power station. Since NSW is tied into the single grid, reduction in baseload capacity threatens NSW as well as other Eastern Grid states.

Geographic concentration of wind farms in NSW (as in Victoria) is even worse than in South Australia. That makes NSW wind power generation highly vulnerable to localised weather conditions (whether calms or storms) that can simultaneously eliminate most of the output, throwing demand onto ever diminishing baseload power stations.

If NSW is to build more wind farms, they need to be widely dispersed around the state to greatly reduce the possibility of highly correlated wind farm power outputs and losses. Approving and building Crookwell 3, in the area where most NSW wind farms are concentrated, would be a deliberate act of vandalism directed against the NSW power system with ultimate harm to all NSW power users.

The NSW Government should not approve another wind farm until there has been an exhaustive review of the full implications for electricity security for the people and industry of NSW. It should not consider any wind farm proposal which does not carefully examine how its inclusion in the NSW power system will, over time, affect the retention of critical

¹ <https://www.greatagain.gov/policy/energy-independence.html>

baseload power stations, the stability of the grid, and power costs to consumers when taking account of the necessary backup capacity, the additional transmission infrastructure, and RECS.

This zombie proposal for Crookwell 3 should be dispatched now instead of haunting the area for years and lingering as a threat to the security of NSW power supply.