

**Planning and Assessment Commission Hearing**

**Crudine Ridge Wind Farm Proposal**

**10<sup>th</sup> February, 2016**

***Submission by Steve Lowe***

I would like to address the socio-Economic Impacts section of the assessment report.

“...addressing future electricity demand without the production of additional greenhouse gases.”

How can this be a valid conclusion? Windpower is a source at the mercy of the wind which is an enormous variable. To suggest that “the wind is always blowing somewhere” just doesn’t cut it. It is a fact that gas fired power stations run constantly so that at short notice they can be throttled up to cover the shortfalls in supply when the wind stops blowing. I am informed that not only does this rapid powering up and down of these turbines halve the life of the turbines, their use **CREATES GREENHOUSE GASES!**

In paragraph two you raise “...flow-on benefits to the local community..”

Job creation- These developments are very specialist. As a consequence most contractors for this project would be source from other projects elsewhere in the country. How is this “local job creation”?

Capital Investment – It is my understanding that the major components for these structures are imported. That’s the “investment” being spent off shore.

Community Funding – Terms such as “proposed” and “up to” have no place in a final assessment report. Either CWP will establish this community funding or they won’t. You can’t sit on the fence.

In paragraph three of your report you touch on local concerns for impacts on property values. This project may be “permissible” under state significant planning rules, but that doesn’t make it acceptable, morally or otherwise. I deem this to be nothing more than a “motherhood Statement” and an attempt to brush this issue under the carpet. After all, those affected are only “collateral damage”. Whilst the department concludes that values would not be adversely affected, they overlook one point. What is the plan if property prices are affected, values do fall. There isn’t one!

I believe the department, and this assessment report has failed to address the long-term implications of this proposal. Rather than channeling such vast amounts of money into this project, designed to make money for multinational companies with little real saving for the environment, shouldn’t the department be looking towards our own self-reliance. Investing in home based power production and storage. We should be working towards reducing infrastructure and our reliance upon corporate entities for our power.

This project is not in the public interest, and final approval should be declined.