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OBJECT

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Please refer to the attachment

M Armstrong phone presentation to IPCN at Wallaroo Solar and BESS public meeting 18/07/24

Dear Commissioners

Below is my updated verbal presentation to the Commission made on 18/07/24. Please accept this update as my submission to the Commission for consideration when assessing the Wallaroo Solar and BESS works proposal.

I'd like to thank the panel for giving me the opportunity to speak today.

My first comment is to say that I most definitely am against the Wallaroo solar and BESS project.

There are many reasons to object to the solar works and BESS backup and I'm sure you've heard all of them at one point or another. So, I will speak to you from a different perspective this time.

Wallaroo is a 100MW solar works with a small BESS backup. The proponent has claimed that the project will provide electricity to approximately 48,000 homes. The fact is that this is simply not possible.

People take the statements of proponents at face value. However, this is because they don't understand capacity factors. Solar panels are among the lowest energy density of all energy generators available in the world today.

An added disadvantage is that they are weather dependent and only produce electricity when the sun is shining and this is reduced further on cloudy days. Also, their efficiency drops dramatically with age.

Those 48,000 homes will only receive electricity part time. The backup batteries will at best even out the intermittent nature of the available sunshine when power dips if a cloud comes over.

Wind and solar are weather dependent forms of power generation and they can never be relied upon to provide electricity as needed. Demand and supply must be in balance.

This statement that Wallaroo will provide electricity to 48,000 is only partly true. In fact solar in Australia has been shown to provide electricity for just 20% of the time on average over a year as put out by an AEMO report.

These houses will receive electricity at random intervals or not at all without the backup of coal or gas. Do you think that this is what these people envisaged?

These lies must stop now! One of the organisations that advise the government on climate policy placed a full page add in the Telegraph recently. It made five statements that were simply not true.

The first claim was that "40% of our electricity comes from renewables right now."

This claim is either from a lack of understanding of capacity factors and intermittent supply or it is deliberately intended to mislead the public. The stated 40% is the installed capacity not the actual output.

You cannot compare the installed capacity of renewables which are weather dependent as well as having a low-capacity factor, with the capacity factors of coal, gas or nuclear which

are all 'engineered' to provide electricity at rated capacity 24/7/365. Their first statement is therefore not correct.

The second statement was that "Australia has the world's best renewables resources, so renewables make sense.". By "renewables" (unreliables) they mean wind and solar electricity generation.

A government report came out last year with maps indicating the most suitable locations for wind turbines and this report showed that very few places in NSW were in fact suitable for wind turbines. This report was withdrawn a few days later and subsequently reissued with revised parameters. Why!

In our experience the developers can't deny the lack of wind but their solution is to just build more wind projects. But the thing is, no matter how many turbines you install if the wind isn't blowing there is no electricity. But they will boast about the installed capacity as though it adds value rather increasing the end cost of electricity to all consumers.

We've had cloudy days out here in the Central West Renewable Energy Zone for months now so solar isn't doing much either. "World's best energy resources" is just a statement not a fact.

The third statement was "lots of jobs." This statement is true. Except that most of these jobs are filled by backpackers and short-term visa holders.

There will be 10,000 workers brought into our region alone at peak build, the labour camps are already in the application process with some of them already approved. This presents enormous problems for our communities.

Our populations are small and our unemployment levels are low. To suggest that we will benefit in a big way from renewables employment is not true. Most of them are coming in from overseas and enjoy very favourable taxation treatment (another subsidy to the unreliables industry).

The fourth statement was "economic opportunity." The host landowners think they benefit, but end-of-life of life responsibility of the infrastructure and associated costs are likely to fall on them.

Property values are adversely affected and there are people who are having difficulties selling their properties as no one wants to live next to renewables infrastructure.

The rest is just bribery and the people don't get that they are funding their own so called benefits through their taxes and increased debts of governments by way of subsidies. Where is the economic opportunity?

The fifth and last statement "driving down power prices" is nothing short of insulting. The push for renewables started in earnest around ten years ago here in Australia and electricity costs have consistently risen year in year out since then to now be amongst the highest in the world.

Manufacturing and small businesses have shut down in growing numbers because they cannot afford to pay the high cost of electricity.

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Respectfully, you are public servants and as such the Australian people pay your salaries.

There are many reasons that industrial wind and solar have no place in our country and you have been presented with these reasons for many years now by a large number of experts in their field. You owe it to all Australians to listen to the voices that thus far you have chosen to ignore.

It isn't good enough that you only listen to the advice of those who will benefit financially from the roll-out of renewables to the detriment of the rest of Australia.

Again respectfully, you need to step up and do the job that we pay you to do. There is a lot that is very wrong within the renewables industry and it has been ignored for far too long.

Thank you for your time.