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OBJECT

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SUMMARY OF FIRES AND FAIRNESS PRESENTATION

Fact. The coronial enquiry into the 2009 Black Saturday fires in Victoria found that there were 11 major fires and that 6 of these fires were caused by power lines. There were a total of 173 deaths with 159 of these deaths being attributed to the power line fires.

The AEMO has given the CWO-REZ a fire rating of E, which is the worst possible rating. It would seem unwise to build the electrical infrastructure required for renewable energy in this region given that this infrastructure can cause fires.

Add to this the predictions of climate change which indicate that the extreme weather events which caused the 2009 Victorian fires will become much more common.

Plus fire control will be hampered by renewable energy projects. Water cannot be used on lithium battery fires, It is too dangerous for fire crews to access fires in solar farms. And wind turbines and power lines restrict the use of aerial water bombing for fire control.

The above represents a trifecta of stupidity straight out of the "to save the village we must destroy the village" playbook.

An alternative to land based wind turbines are offshore wind zones (farms?). No bushfires, fewer power lines that will be mainly on the sea floor and better wind.

What is common is that coastal residents hate wind turbines just as much as the people in the bush. To this end the Hunter Offshore Wind Zone was reduced by half. Meanwhile the CWO-REZ has doubled in size from 3 to 6 gigawatts. Chris Bowen increased the original 10km setback for coastal residents near the Hunter Offshore Wind Zone to 20km. This setback now applies to the Illawara Offshore Wind Zone as well.

Compare this 20km setback from wind turbines on the coast to the 2km setback that is deemed acceptable for rural residents. The logic appears to be that there will be fewer people impacted and they should accept this for the "greater good".

This attitude is exactly why anti-discrimination law exists. It is there to protect minority groups (eg colour, race or religion} from exploitation and persecution. And since "place of residence" is included in this legislation it must apply to rural residents as well.

Therefore 20km setback for coastal residents; 20km setback for rural residents!

But the NSW government will argue that since offshore wind is under Commonwealth jurisdiction and onshore wind is under State jurisdiction the NSW government is entitled to subject their rural residents to this type of discrimination.



However the Commonwealth Capacity Investment Scheme underwrites the viability of most renewable energy projects. The Commonwealth can hardly support projects that blatantly contravene Commonwealth anti-discrimination law.

It would be sensible that, rather than go down this legal path, the IPC simply do its job. That is to protect people from illconceived projects such as the Spicers Creek Wind Farm. If approved this project will endanger lives and be an abuse of human rights. There are other alternatives!

Getting back to coronial enquiries. They can reccomend criminal charges. This could apply to anyone involved in the design and approval process within the CWO-REZ.
