

groundswell

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...for a safe climate

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Hi,

Having visited zero carbon wind farms, community owned at Hepburn and larger at Chillicut Victoria, problems at both were with the grid. Privatised distributor Powercorp were a bottleneck, not prepared to invest in more copper in the power lines and modification to software to allow for additional power infeed. The community wind farm is gradually being taken care of. Chillicut was supposed to be 50 turbines but Powercorp would not allow more than 35. Another project in the same territory was proposed for 100 turbines but Powercorp would not cooperate.

Considering that Federal Government is spending \$40B on NBN, just for internet, surely a new public sector enterprise is warranted for nationwide network of new High Voltage DC powerline(s) to handle zero carbon generation?

About community sector wind farms, I believe that there are three basic requirements for supporting the community energy sector:

- recognise the value of engaging the community in the clean energy transition by specifically including community energy projects
- ensure that community projects are not ruled out due to their relatively small scale
- make provision for early stage equity investment in community projects

We believe that the community energy sector warrants specific attention in the construction of the CEFC as it will underpin

community understanding of and support for both clean energy policy and the roll out of clean energy infrastructure.

We believe that the local economic and social benefits of these projects will play a vital role in building the broad social licence for renewables.

Specific benefits can accrue to local communities if we have wind farm projects as somewhere reliable to invest what remains of our superannuation funds.

We believe that a vibrant community energy sector is an economically efficient and socially desirable solution for building the social licence required to dramatically drive towards a clean energy future in Australia.

About larger than community scale power, does CEFC know about <http://beyondzeroemissions.org/> and the Zero Carbon 2020 plan? Surely this is a particularly convincing complete definition of what CEFC should facilitate, zero carbon national baseload in 10 years?

In SCOPE OF CEFC, wording is about investment in clean energy. In recent newspaper ads about CEFC, (un)natural gas has been included. Gas generates GHG emissions, almost as bad if not worse than black coal. Extreme weather events have already validated that Climate is changing more rapidly than most pessimistic climate science models. Some media insist that gas is a transition fuel. Surely it's too late? Gas based power will become stranded assets, long before providing sensible return. A year or 3 ago, I was convinced by idea of small, decentralised, combined cycle CHP neighbourhood gas turbine generators but it's now too late. Zero carbon is critical.

In MARKET GAP AND OVERCOMING IT, for the private sector to play your game, isn't it just a question of guaranteeing handsome revenue, for a long period. Best example of this is Victorian Desalination plant, public private partnership, with government guaranteed finance for 30 years! This project is 150% of size of Ashkelon Israel. Cost is 3000% bigger.

Please don't do anything with or for the French utility robber barons, Gdf-SUEZ or Veolia. Especially, please don't offer compensation for any shutdown of Hazelwood. Even more specially, please don't offer any finance for conversion of ancient relic Hazelwood to gas. If you must offer compensation for shutdown, please make it Whyalla SA, so that SA can sign up with BZE for concentrated solar and become 60%

zero carbon. Victoria, with government by Ted Baillieu does not deserve a single dollar.

Per Appendix A, as with doubts about "clean energy" above, the wording is "low carbon". For every aspect of shape, size, climate of Australia, if we can't do zero carbon, nobody can.

The whole flavour of CEFC review document is about investment not competing with private sector. Sooner or later, western democratic governments will need to admit that privatisation of natural monopoly utilities has been a serious mistake. The much hallowed public private partnership regime has been a worsening disaster, as in desal 3000% above. Free market economics are anything but free.

There must be a way for Australia to show proper leadership away from massive corporate welfare to gigantic transnationals?

BERNIE McCOMB.