



THE WOW STATE
19 February 2003

Member for Flinders Liz Penfold had her tongue firmly in her cheek when she suggested that the state of South Australia should be renamed the WOW State - We're Operating Wonderland.

New South Wales has bought all the green power generated by SA's wind farm at Lake Bonney.

Meanwhile despite Premier Rann's protestations in parliament yesterday about being in favour of the Kyoto agreement, South Australia is set to buy dirty power generated by coal fired power stations in New South Wales.

Cleve New South Wales! While Australia has not signed the Kyoto protocols on the environment, the Federal Government is working towards meeting them. States are supposed to have 2% of their power supplied by sustainable means by the year 2010 so NSW is taking action.

Dirty Power coming into South Australia and clean power going out of South Australia will use the same regulated power line.

Maybe Minister Conlon who in parliament yesterday aggressively supported the SNI line can stand at a check point on the border to ensure that the right sort of power is going the right way?

What penalties should apply for an infringement? Knowing what power can do, it's a shocking situation".

But it also brings up a new discovery: There's magic in a state border. No longer can a state border be considered simply a line on a map.

Eyre Peninsula has five or six companies ready to establish wind farms along the west coast that initially would generate about one fifth of the State's power needs. However a regulated power line is needed to feed the power into the national grid.

The ACCC had to decide which lines to give regulated status, and therefore a significant subsidy from all the power users of South Australia. Would it be the one bringing dirty power between South Australia and New South Wales in competition to the privately funded Murray Link and/or the one on Eyre Peninsula needed to allow green power to access the grid and provide a new wind generation component industry worth billions of dollars to our state. With the support of the State Labor Government, they opted for the interstate one presumably because it crossed a state border and probably because wind power was not 'proven' despite already being a significant source of power around the world!

Harry Potter should be summoned forthwith to investigate this phenomenon. Provided he can unlock the secrets of this magic, it has the potential to expand his powers to undreamed of heights. Or should that be lengths?

Wind farms will eventually be established on Eyre Peninsula as it is one of the best sites in the world and if Hydro Tasmania can jump the new Native Vegetation Act hurdles, they may put up the first turbines, constrained of course by the capacity of the old single 132Kv power line into the grid that services the whole region.

As our wind generated clean power packs it's travelling bags and heads off for distant parts to do what it was created for, will it be ostracized by our State Labor Government and have to go elsewhere?

I have actively pursued the wind industry coming to South Australia. In recognition of this, Babcock and Brown invited me to speak at the launch of their Lake Bonney wind farm when the development of their Eyre Peninsula site became the harder option and I have been assisting a number of other companies since then but still not a turbine on Eyre Peninsula.

So should we change our name to the WOW Sate? We're Weary Of Wonderment and want wind power.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

15 August 2002

Member for Flinders Liz Penfold condemned the State Labor Government for side-stepping its responsibility to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to protect the environment.

"The government refuses to accept responsibility for subjecting South Australians to power generated by dirty coal burning plants in New South Wales rather than clean green energy produced by wind farms on Eyre Peninsula," she said.

In Parliament last week, Mrs Penfold asked the Minister for Energy, Pat Conlon, to lobby for a change to the ACCC guidelines so that the commission, when approving regulated powerlines, can take into account a preference for green energy over coal fired energy, the commercial benefit of having new industry in South Australia (building wind turbines, for instance), and community benefit particularly in relation to providing an adequate power supply on Eyre Peninsula. The guidelines are currently being reviewed with submission closing on 23rd August 2002.

Regulated power lines are the high voltage lines connecting power stations into the transmission grid that are paid for by an additional charge on all state household and business power users.

In his reply, Mr Conlon said wind generated power is not as valuable in South Australia as it would be in New South Wales and Victoria which have a "very high 'black' component to the generation" and dismissed wind generated power as unreliable.

Mrs Penfold said Mr Conlon obviously is not up to date with advances in wind power technology which use fly wheel and battery storage at high production times of strong winds to iron out power availability when the wind drops.

Mr Conlon said it was unacceptable for the cost of a regulated interconnector on Eyre Peninsula to be paid for by users across the State but made no such assertion on the \$100 million plus cost of the SNI regulated interconnector from New South Wales which will be paid for by South Australians and will bring in coal fired power.

WIND POWER - SIVIOUR RESPONSE

20 AUGUST 2001

Member for Flinders, Liz Penfold described Mr Siviour's claims as "utter nonsense."

“To suggest I welcomed any electricity price hike would be like saying Mr Sivour would welcome a brown snake in his swag,” Mrs Penfold said.

“The simple fact of the matter is no one, including Mr Sivour, predicted the ramifications of the National Electricity Market - which was introduced by the Keating Labor Government.

“Mr Sivour should concentrate on the cure and not on the ailment. People are more interested in what can be done to fix the problem than they are dwelling on the past.

“We now have a situation where higher power prices, combined with the 2% green power requirements legislated by the Federal Government, have provided a major impetus for the development of Wind Power.”

“Eyre Peninsula stands to benefit from this with the potential for 1000 megawatts of wind power being produced at what is rapidly being recognised as one of the best sites in Australia, and indeed the world.”

“Some of our farmers are already benefiting from lease payments on their land which is helping the viability of their farm,” Mrs Penfold said.

In the long term, because of the wind farms, a second inter connector along the East Coast to Port Lincoln is envisaged . This would ensure a far more reliable power supply for both the power to Eyre Peninsula and power being exported.

“I am delighted that Eyre Peninsula will be doing their bit to reduce global warming by utilising a natural resource that we didn't know we had,”