

 A.C.T. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE	
SUBMISSION NUMBER	7
DATE AUTH'D FOR PUBLICATION	18 Mar 09

Dear Sir,

I would like to make the following submission to the "Assembly inquiry into ACT Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets".

The thrust of my submission would be to greatly expand the ability for households to source their energy consumption from renewable sources (at a small fraction of the cost of installing household size solar energy) and at no nett cost to the ACT government and other electricity consumers.

On any rational economic analysis, this is superior to the existing feed-in tariff scheme (which although well intentioned) is does little to significantly increase households adopting renewable energy. I would be interested in the ACT Government statistics of the percentage of energy being supplied via this scheme.

I would add that my proposal is superior to the ACT Government whereby a household pays a premium for green energy, because the household gains the full benefit of their effort to source renewable energy.

Proposal

Dear Sir,

I wish to question whether Government Feed In Tariff schemes, although well intentioned, is poor economic policy in its current form, and whether it should be changed (or expanded) as described below.

It costs about \$20,000 for a household to install solar panels to offset their household energy usage, and it costs more than \$1,000 per year for electricity consumers to 'subsidise' each household receiving the generous 'feed-in' tariff, not to mention the cost of any installation rebate subsidy.

It is smarter if a household is able to invest in a 1/1000 share of a 2.5 mw Government large wind turbine (estimated cost \$5,000 per household), which would generate the same amount of renewable energy.

Households cannot do this themselves, and need Government to implement and manage the scheme.

Potentially, it would

- (1) tap a very large funding source for renewable energy (which the Government cannot fund by itself),
- (2) enabling many more households who cannot afford \$20,000 for solar energy to offset their energy consumption with renewables,
- (3) not require \$1,000 per year subsidy per household for 'feed-in' premium.
- (4) not require installation rebates
- (5) runs at no nett cost to the Government or other electricity consumers.

Yours sincerely

Don Young

email: c

au

Attachment A.

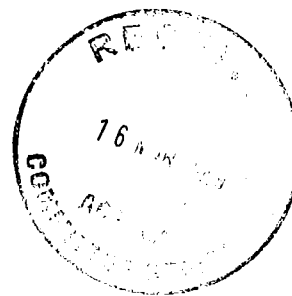
Jaireth, Hanna

From: Don Young
Sent: Saturday, 14 March 2009 3:59 PM
To: info@futureenergy.com.au
Subject: Query

Attachments: Hepburn Wind Farm.pdf



Hepburn Wind
Farm.pdf (81 KB)



Dear Sir,

I just found your (attached) article about the Hepburn community wind farm.

I have written to the ACT government to request they consider modify the Feed In Tariff scheme, to allow households to invest in wind turbine energy and offset against their electricity usage. To date I have received little, positive feedback. I realise your model is basically what I have been trying to promote - but on a smaller scale and with perhaps less active Government assistance to implement and manage. I would be most grateful if you had any information or advise that you would be able to provide to me.

I have copied/pasted information that I sent to the ACT legislative Assembly, setting out why the current Feed In tariff scheme is poor economics, and a community type wind farm scheme would be better.

Yours sincerely
Don Young

I wish to question whether Government Feed In Tariff schemes, although well intentioned, are the best economic policy, and if the current schemes should be modified or expanded as described below.

It costs about \$20,000 for a household to install solar panels to offset their household energy usage, and it costs more than \$1,000 per year for other electricity consumers (including low income consumers) to 'subsidise' each household receiving the 'feed-in' tariff, not to mention the cost of any installation rebate subsidy provided by the Government.

It is smarter if a household is able to invest in a 1/1000 share of a 2.5 mw Government large wind turbine (estimated cost \$5,000 per household), which would generate the same amount of renewable energy.

Households cannot do this themselves, and need Government to implement and manage such a scheme.

Potentially, it would

- (1) tap a large funding source for renewable energy (which the Government cannot fund by itself)
- (2) enable households who cannot afford \$20,000 for solar energy to offset their energy consumption with renewables
- (3) enable households who live in flats etc. to offset their energy consumption with renewables
- (4) not require \$1,000 per year subsidy per household for 'feed-in' premium by other consumers
- (5) not require installation rebates by Government
- (6) run at no net cost to the Government or other electricity consumers
- (7) enable Governments to meet/better renewable energy targets at no net cost (to themselves)
- (8) most importantly, increase the use of renewables by households

This modified form of the Feed In Tariff scheme may provide the solution for the majority of households converting from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

**PRESS RELEASE**21st February 2007

Future Energy Pty Ltd

**Australia's First Community Wind Farm Approved**

In a landmark decision, the Hepburn Shire Council has given the 'go-ahead' to Australia's first community owned wind farm.

The wind farm, to be situated on Leonards Hill approximately 10 kms south of Daylesford, will consist of two turbines, each with a capacity of 2 Megawatts. The wind farm will produce enough energy for well over 2,000 homes, roughly equivalent to the number of homes in the Daylesford and Hepburn Springs areas.

The community wind farm is being developed by the Melbourne based renewable energy developer, Future Energy Pty Ltd, in association with the local Hepburn Renewable Energy Association.

The company's Managing Director, David Shapero, said he was delighted with the decision. "This decision reflects the overwhelming support for renewable energy within communities. The project is an ideal way for individuals and businesses to own part of a wind farm and reap the rewards, both environmental and financial," he said.

The Hepburn Renewable Energy Association was also elated. "We would like to thank every one of our 410 members for their great vision and tremendous support," said President, Per Bernard.

Mr Bernard also praised Future Energy. "A small community such as ours can only attempt such a bold and innovative project with the help of a business partner with expertise. Future Energy has shown that it is dedicated to this project and to renewable energy," he said.

David Shapero added, "We're currently finalising the establishment of the Wind Co-operative before we begin the fund raising process. While this project is based around wind energy, Future Energy's Renewable Energy Co-operative Model can be applied to any type of community project, including solar, biomass and bio-fuels."

Late last year Minister Thwaites, via Sustainability Victoria, signed off on a Victorian Government grant of \$975,000 for the wind farm. The project is expected to be completed by the end of next year.

Note:

The community ownership concept is modelled on the success of similar wind farms across Europe, UK and more recently the US. The original concept dates back to the 1980's in Denmark. That country now produces over 20% of their energy needs from wind power with half of all wind turbines owned by local wind co-operatives.

{Reference: www.windpower.org/en/core.htm}

For more information about Future Energy Pty Ltd visit www.futureenergy.com.au or contact:

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