Subject: Productive Economy Policy Consultation

Dear Panel,

My comments relate to rural/regional planning and in particular renewable energy generation. Sub theme 3.1.

* The Barossa Character Preservation Zone.
The State Power Investment Corp (SPIC) through its subsidiary, State Power Investment Overseas of China (Chinese Government) are planning to build a 64, 145m wind turbines near Kyneton 10 of which are within this zone. This is the largest acquisition in the Australian Energy Sector by a Chinese Government entity. How did the Barossa Character Preservation Zone protect this?

* Siting

Ensure establishment of Wind Farms are carefully located and designed. In Australia and all over the world problems are being discovered with the noise particularly infrasound. Larger turbines create more noise according to the Wind Farm Commissioner in his annual report. The Finnish Association of Environmental Health’s 2016 Study has recommended 15 kilometre setbacks from houses to avoid this problem. If the SA-NSW interconnector goes ahead why not erect the wind farms out there nearby. Saves money on cabling reduces power lost through
wires over a shorter distance and the population is significantly less out north of Hay. Too easy!

443 dwellings are located within 5 kilometres of the proposed Palmer wind farm.

- Planning decisions.
  In the event, after the establishment of any wind farm, what protection do the planning laws offer if your residency has become uninhabitable due to the high and low frequency sound emitted? Do you sue the local council or SACP for allowing the erection, the company that owns the towers for negligence, the EPA for inadequate noise governance or the host farmers for allowing this to happen. At least the sound levels should be the same across all Australian states. A limit of 35dB should be adopted in line with N.S.W and Qld.

- Planning Process
  By making the planning process quicker, simpler and more equitable might be fine for someone’s new garden shed but for Giant Industrial Wind Turbines in a unique environment, a lot more scrutiny is needed. Submission proposals from Wind Farm companies often contain more than 5,000 pages of information, which seems quite technical but it really is a bit fluffy around the edges. Insufficient environmental and natural vegetation studies (A couple of days recording birds), relying on data from years ago, and the director of
URPS (Urban and Regional Planning Solutions) reigning on the ERD court decisions concerning wind farms.

* Guidelines
  Current guidelines are not keeping up. There is a trend emerging for bigger turbines clustered around.
  A. MORATORIUM needs to be imposed NOW! or at least until the results of a current sleep/noise study at Waterloo (big problems up there) being assessed by the Flinders University, are finalised. Thank you for your time.

Amanda Vance

P.S. No wind, no power. Happens quite regularly. Wind turbines supply about 1/3 of the power they say they do. FACT.