22nd February 2019

To: DPTI Planning and Engagement

Re: Productive Economy Planning and Consultation

I am responding to your call for public consultation re the changes to the draft planning changes to the Act.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for putting this out there for public consultation. I hope this will change the laws to help protect we, the taxpayers and citizens of South Australia, from rampant corporate abuse in the way of dodgy development that harms people, wildlife and ecosystems.

Secondly, I have several concerns that I feel have not been addressed in the draft changes. These are as follows:

- **Productive Economy Background Paper Page 27** - The size, location and impact wind power generation facilities have on local people (neighbours), local ecology (changes to land use that affect local native flora and fauna, plus effects on farmers and neighbours), the local economy (unsustained employment of locals).
- **Page 29 of above mentioned document** - Changes to the local environment due to solar being a technology that increases temperatures on the ground, thus impacting crops (whatever they may be).
- I couldn’t see anything about roads, power lines and substations and how these should be designed to have least impact on local flora and fauna. Where I live, we have a lot of local native plants and animals, I can’t see anything in the draft legislation that protects these.
- **There is nothing about safe buffers between turbines and neighbours.**
- **There is nothing to discuss what is an appropriate wind farm development for which location.** It just looks like it’s still open slather and the people who oppose don’t have much say.
- **What defines “nuisance”.** If a development is keeping me awake at night, does that define “nuisance”? Or is it just another way of saying we don’t care about people who are suffering? Or how do we prove that something is a nuisance? How do we do that? There is no protection for people, it protects the companies who inflict these kinds of developments on the public.
• Noise monitoring needs to reflect audible and inaudible noise, and needs to reflect
  the special characteristics of noise generated by wind farms.
• I noticed that there is a lot of legislation on developments near the city, but it looks
  like people can put up towers with gay abandon out in rural areas. Not on!
• It seems that wind farm operators/builders can put them near people, with them
  getting bigger and bigger. Studies have shown in Europe that people are impacted by
  5 MW turbines up to 20km away. Our current laws do not reflect the changes in
  technology and the impacts they have on people, plants, animals and whole
  ecosystems, plus local economies when people move away because they can’t stand
  living next to a wind farm.

So my suggestions are as follows:

• The rules need to change with regards to where a wind farm is placed. Great, build
  your wind farm, just not near people, heritage areas, wildlife areas.
• They should be open to full public scrutiny – every man and his dog should be able to
  see what these companies are planning to inflict on communities.
• We should be able to appeal, or have the final say after the applicants have
  responded.
• All documents associated with the wind farm application must be accessible to the
  public – no more keeping everything private so we don’t know what’s going on. This
  should eliminate the deceptive nature of these applications, hopefully.
• More time to look at the documents. Giving us 10 business days to go over those
  hundreds of pages when we aren’t lawyers or experts is grossly unfair.
• Change the noise criteria. It should be 35dB(A). This whole idea of averaging out the
  noise wind farms make over 10 minutes is ridiculous. Also, the people hired by the
  wind farms put their noise monitoring equipment in the noisiest places possible to
  try and counter the noise made by wind farms so they can say, “See? It’s really noisy
  here.” It just helps them to lie. This means current methods of noise assessment are
  designed to be in favour of the wind farms. There is no-one policing them.
• Nothing about tonality in the draft legislation, inaudible frequencies or lower
  frequencies. There is no noise compliance testing. And when they do test the noise,
  they change how the turbines operate to make them quieter. There is no compliance
  required from regulators.
• How do I get to complain and actually be heard? It seems everything is in the favour
  of the wind farm operators.
• Is anyone accountable for the problems caused by wind farms? Who should be
  accountable for causing nuisance or harm to people, flora and fauna?
• Who monitors the wind farm constructors and operators to keep them honest? Let’s
  face it, people do strange, dodgy and even illegal things for money...
• Is there any space to allow for a wind tower to fall down, God forbid, so it won’t
  impact on people, ie: kill or maim, or impact on property or hurt local ecosystems
  and wildlife?
• What about monitoring impacts to wildlife/birdlife during construction and during
  operation? Who is going to keep these companies honest? How will they be kept
  honest?
• We need to have a law about the visual impacts of wind towers. I think that areas should be protected from them even if they are not a special heritage area, simply because people live there, or there is a special flora or fauna patch that needs protecting.

• What if a wind farm is very close to a town of hundreds of people and they start feeling some effects eg: sleep deprivation, houses vibrating, ear problems, dizziness, just a few things for example, what happens to those people? Who helps them? Will the wind farm be shut down or will the townspeople all have to move away from their homes? How is this to be addressed? How do they even complain and be heard and their complaint be acted upon? Just how much proof do people need to prove the wind farm is causing them a problem? Do they bear the financial cost?

• Who is responsible for the removal of the turbines once their useful life is ended? I don’t see any provision for this anywhere.

• With regards to solar, will neighbours be compensated for the change to local micro climate impacts? It’s a whole lot harder to grow a crop if it’s hotter and drier...

As I see it, companies who propose wind farms (and other renewables) get a whole lot of help paid for by the taxpayer to put them wherever they want.

WE THE TAXPAYER GET NO ASSISTANCE FROM GOVERNMENT TO FIGHT THESE DEVELOPMENTS.

We have to pay for it ourselves and do it on our own time.

We work in jobs and businesses and have to find the time to read all the documentation, try to understand it and formulate a response that is intelligent, coherent and factual. These proponents are professionals at this and it is their day job. Who can help we, the people?

People protest against these developments because they live right next door to them and are/will be impacted by them, and they get steamrolled by SCAP, their local members of parliament, and the companies/corporations who want to make a shedload of money at local people’s expense. Just think about wind farms in SA where people have arced up and protested. They were ignored and now live with the consequences of a decision made by SCAP based on guidelines and laws that didn’t keep up with the technology, didn’t police the construction to make sure the development is built according to the approved plans, and used fraudulent/dodgy methods of monitoring for noise etc.

Case in point, there is a wind farm proposed for somewhere near Ardrossan. The proponents have decided to reduce the number of turbines, but increase their size to 4MW, standing at about 220m high. How can they be allowed to do this? Will they be allowed to change the design on the fly even though it was approved by SCAP? People are really worried and are speaking out about it. I heard about this on the radio just yesterday morning and people are worried about what sort of impacts this will have on them personally, their local community, jobs, need I go on?
I live near Crystal Brook. Will this happen to us? Will Neoen be able to change their plans on the fly and just build whatever they want? It seems this is how the system operates. If I am wrong, then please correct me with the appropriate proof that this doesn’t happen. I’ll bet you can’t.

Neoen have operated in a dodgy manner when building the wind farm at Hornsdale: farmers had their paddocks ripped up and turbines placed where they did not agree to, all because they trusted Neoen to keep their word. The landholders didn’t keep an eye on them, except for one person, who made them comply with the plans they had set out for their land. This shows the dodgyness of any approved plan. Just build whatever you want because SCAP has already approved the application.

It seems that even though plans are approved by SCAP, no-one is monitoring the proponents during building and operation. It seems there is no one keeping an eye on them, so they can do whatever they want.

I also have a problem with how wind farm proposals can be put through the process.

Neoen put their application after the time had run out for crown sponsorship. They used delay tactics to make it as hard as possible for us to respond. That is their right according to the law. But it means the law is wrong.

I also worry that there is a person on the panel who has a direct conflict of interest and has been allowed to sit on the panel because no –one challenged it. This is unacceptable. This person may be asked to not sit on the panel and to not assist with decision making, but can still exert influence behind closed doors.

Then there is property devaluation. If we had to sell, we can’t because no-one wants to live near a wind farm. What is to be done to address this? Is there some sort of formula that can make fair compensation to affected neighbours and community members?

Thank you for your kind attention,

Karen and James Spry