

Introduction:

I write this submission as a resident of Central Coast to express not only my concerns, but also to highlight the current failings and the deplorable way in which communities have been treated by the renewable energy sector and our very own State owned TasNetworks all in the name of community consultation/engagement.

1. Framework Introduction

The body of the framework itself makes false claims that the Frameworks benefits Tasmania, as do components of renewable energy projects, currently going through either stages of planning their development, or application process for planning permits. Moreover the current practice adopted by said engage in use multi million PR spins, unfactual and hype to sell the idea to Tasmanian's that Tasmania will benefit. (In the case of our very own TasNetwork, whom engaged a non Tasmanian PR company, costing taxpayers million of dollar in one year alone to promote what is actually the worst possible infrastructure project that the state, Australia and possibly the world has ever seen). They commissioned 2 non independent studies, which were mere views of what could be, rather than genuine evidenced based models. Whereas, in fact all the independent evidence has clearly shown 'There is no benefit to Tasmania! Our power prices won't go down, in fact they are likely to raise by an estimated 25% to pay for the transmission lines, infrastructure, Marinus Link and for what? Mainland to get cheaper power (I would note also, over the last few months all states have made a huge undertaking and investment within their own renewable energy sector, investing in newer more efficient and cost effective, thus making the need for Tasmanian energy obsolete), foreign owned wind farms will be the only beneficiaries, sending profits offshore, Jobs, well that's a blatant con/spin, Jobs created during construction will be fly in fly out. (Tasmania does not have the skill base). So in answer to the question what is in it for Tasmanian's? Short answer – debt, a marred environment, through poor planning, industrialising lanscapes that are currently tourist attractions , job loses within tourism sector and local towns and likelihood a huge white elephant of defunct transmission infrastructure.

2. Consultation

The Framework quotes “best practice approaches” to community consultation, however that is most certainly not my own experience nor that of my community. We have used as a tick box exercise, whilst the reality is that we have not been provided information, denied detailed maps, questions raised have gone unanswered, concerns ignored and we have not been given the opportunity to have a voice in respect of the area we live and work, even though it is acknowledged that are lives and livelihoods will be detrimentally impacted upon. We have been forced to travel to venues either an hour or 2 away in the hope of obtaining information, only to have to listen to a 50 minute spin on who are we, we as a company etc, with the remaining 10 minutes allocated for us as a community to ask questions. However, the common answer was, we cannot answer these questions right now, but please provide your contact details and we will get back to you with the answers, well it's been well over a year now, and we are still waiting!

So in regard to community consultations and the fact that even a State owned Company can and has not worked within “best practice approaches” how can communities/ Tasmanian's have any faith in any

Framework that is set out when projects such as Marinus have already been fast tracked? Well that can only be achieved if there is a complete re-wind

3. Renewable energy in Tasmania.

I am not apposed to renewable energy in any form, however the ideal is for energy production to be green, protecting the environment and the ultimately the planet. However, unless renewables are planned right, placed in the right places, have minimal impact on the environment, then how can they possible be called green!

5. Renewable energy zones.

Industrialising nearly half of Tasmania and calling it a renewable energy zone is sort of a contradiction in itself.

6. Tasmanian Renewable Energy Action Plan.

The action plan as far as I can see is about exporting power to the mainland, in order for the mainland to have cheaper power, foreign owned company's to make vast profits that will all go offshore, jobs for non Tasmanian fly in fly out workers. Whereas Tasmania itself will face increasing job loses from the tourism sector as well as a decline in our townships as our tourist numbers begin to dwindle due to our proposed industialisation of nearly half our state.

Conclusion:

In conclusion as previously stated, this is not in Tasmania's interest. Therefore I would argue that a whole new approach is sought, back to the drawing board, get communities onboard, How? "best practice approaches" how can communities/ Tasmanian's have any faith in any Framework that is set out, when as I they have experienced the opposite from our very own State company, TasNetworks.

Lets get this right! Instead of Tasmania being considered the poor backward relation to the mainland, why can't we be leading Australia in green renewable energy, that does not have such a detrimental impact of our precious environment and landscapes. Let Tasmania remain the envy of the many, for its beautiful, varied and untouched wilderness, whilst being creative and forward thinking in obtaining our renewable energy targets. We can do both!

Lets make Tasmanian renewables leaders, not lagggers nor lackies for foreign owned companies, to make vast profits to give to their off-shore investors.

Lets make renewables work for Tasmania, to the benefit of Tasmania and its people.

Rebecca Piper