

WHAT'S NEWSWORTHY 2



MIXED VIEWS ON WIND GENERATION

Wind farm industry a fraud: McGauran

The Federal Agriculture Minister Peter McGauran has attacked the wind farm industry, describing it as a fraud relying on taxpayer subsidies.

Mr McGauran made the comments while addressing a group of dairy farmers.

He says wind farms are not a cleaner alternative to coal fired power stations and should only be allowed in places where the community wants them.

"Wind farms don't live up to the hype that they are an environmental saviour and a serious alternate energy source and the effect they can have on their neighbours is so serious it means they should not be allowed to get away with the exaggerated claims. Their claims are fraudulent," he said.

Mr McGauran says community concerns that wind farms are unsightly and cause property values to decrease should be taken into account.

"These wind farms are not producing any electricity of any measurable amount and because they're having such an effect on rural communities, they should only be permitted where the community is firstly, engaged, and secondly, accepting of them."

Susan Jeanes from the Renewable Energy Generators' of Australia says the comments are disappointing.

"I suspect that it's better that we let the Environment Minister comment on matters relating to renewable energy and climate change and let the Agriculture Minister comment on matters relating to agriculture," she said.

Ms Jeanes says the entire national electricity market was built with Government money.

"Scientists around the world have predicted that we need to reduce emissions by up to 60 per cent by

2050. Emissions from Australia's electricity sector are predicted to be at 250 per cent above 1990 levels by 2050," she said.

"You can not do nothing, just sit back and just wait for a solution, because it's not going to come without some form of assistance."

Six hundred wind farms have so far been built or been approved in Australia under the Coalition Government.

Source: ABC news online June 29,

Wind farm study confounds critics, says Vic Govt.

There are claims today that Victoria's wind farms are saving more than 250,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year.

The Victorian Government says an independent study conducted for Sustainability Victoria shows the production of electricity from wind results in less burning of fossil fuels.

State Energy Minister Theo Theophanus says the report also shows that critics of wind energy, including the Federal National Party MP Peter McGauran, are ill-informed.

"In fact it shows that just one two-megawatt wind turbine can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 6,000 tonnes of CO2 per annum. It's a lot of CO2 to avoid going into the atmosphere," he said.

Mr Theophanus says that it is time for critics of wind farms to rethink their stance.

He says a lot could be achieved if Victoria could reach its target of 1,000 megawatts of wind energy.

"We would reduce greenhouse gases by up to 2.6 million tonnes every year," he said.

"That is a phenomenal figure, and really, Mr McGauran should just go back to school and try and learn a little bit more before he opens his mouth on these issues."

The state Opposition says the government is softening up Victorians for the introduction of a state mandatory renewable energy scheme, which it says will increase electricity prices.

Source: ABC Radio On Line 10 July.

SEE WIND FARMS & HOW THEY WORK ... page 22

Mill cockies 'in thousands'

By Greg Robert, THE cockatoo holding up a \$650 million pulp mill in South Australia because the Howard Government says it is endangered, is so common that publican Doug Green does not bother setting his alarm clock.

The red-tailed black cockatoo is flourishing, says Mr Green, proprietor of the Goldfields Hotel in the

Queensland Gulf town of Forsyth.

"They wake me up first thing every morning," he said. "We get 70 or 80 coming in here every day. There's plenty around these parts. The numbers seem to be getting more all the time."

The development of the Penola Pulp Mill in the Southeast of South Australia has been delayed because of its potential impact on the red-tailed black cockatoo, listed under the Federal legislation as an endangered species. The mill's developers have been told only 100 of the cockatoos remain, and that their breeding could be affected by the destruction of 200-year old river red gums at the site.

Yet the red tailed black cockatoo is abundant across much of the inland and northern Australia.

Warnings on substandard bracing & glazing

Australian Window Association (AWA) and Hyne Timber were the major sponsors for the recent Roadshows conducted by the BDANSW. In Ballina on 27 June Ted Riddle stressed the need for industry to be sure all wall bracing materials were up to standard. Hardboard bracing should be 4.8mm minimum as some imported product was of a lesser specification.

New bracing requirements in the BCA affect nailing types and nail spacing in bracing panels and sheets. Steel strapping has also been substandard in recent times and if under 0.8mm is below standard.

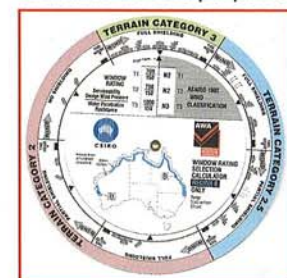
Fiona Lucky, (Hyne Timber) explained the new T2 process, a termite resistant treatment for timber, having a notable blue colour. The timber treatment is not a preservative but acts as a repellent to termites. End grain cuts are protected without further treatment and you can also paint it. There are now moves towards finger-jointed studs to amortise all short timber lengths. This process has a special glue which can take compression, but the timber is not yet suitable in tension situations such as in plates or bracing.

Ted Riddle pointed to new window standards that affect manufacture, branding and location of glass in situations where there is human impact. Under AS 2047, windows, doors and mirrors used in bathrooms must now be verified and comply with the standard.

The importance of wind ratings for housing was stressed as designers must determine wind speeds for relevant areas and show them on all drawings.

The AWA window rating calculator was available for this purpose and, councils

may also provide this information.



Left: The AWA. Wind Speed Calculator