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From:

Sent:

[REDACTED]
Friday, 29 September 2023 5:07 PM

To:

Community Engagement Review

Subject:

Submission to the Community Engagement Review

It goes without saying that transition to renewables is both essential and inevitable but it shouldn't be looked at as a hardship or a sacrifice. Full scale transition to renewable energy can have numerous benefits to our communities and economies if handled correctly.

Lower power prices, from no longer needing to fund coal and gas excavation, will have knock-on effects that can lower cost of living pressures. Renewable infrastructure can also localise the energy jobs markets, creating more employment opportunities in our communities.

To avoid unnecessary animosity in these transitions, host communities should be engaged in the decision making process and should have an equal share in the benefits of new developments. Farmers for example, who are often vocal in their criticism of new developments out of fear of it affecting their properties, can benefit from hosting transmission lines, solar or wind farms. Those owning property along planned routes should receive payments for hosting the infrastructure that are fair and enable all farms to continue to be productive through dual land use design. This would be a steady revenue stream compared to the fluctuating prices of grains and cattle

It should not be forgotten however, that transition is essential to minimise the already catastrophic predictions for climate change. We are far from on track to keeping global warming within 1.5 degrees and have less than a decade to change course.

Australia sits far behind other countries in building renewable infrastructure and transmission networks, being slowed by the vested interests of fossil fuel mining companies that make the largest contributions to Coalition and Labor party donations.

The capacity of our renewable transmissions network is the main bottleneck towards more renewables being used. Expansion of the network to increase our capacity should be the priority, as our existing network is built for coal and gas.

Like our roads, train networks, broadband, and other major infrastructure projects, transmission is critical to ensuring all Australians have access to clean, reliable and affordable energy, and our industries can power their operations

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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