



STRONGER CASE FOR WIND POWER

13 May 2003

Liz Penfold, Member for Flinders in a speech to Parliament this week questioned the State Government why plans to proceed with the SNI interconnector to New South Wales are proceeding when all the indicators are that the project is expensive and will be ineffective.

"A South Australian Wind Power Study undertaken by the Electricity Industry Planning Council in March this year stated that the SNI is not likely to make a significant difference to market dispatch" Mrs Penfold said. "In addition private consultants Burns, Rowe and Worley have estimated that the cost of the SNI interconnector is more likely to be closer to \$200 million rather than the initial estimates of \$110 million".

As a regulated line about 60% of the cost of this interconnector will be borne by all South Australians through their power bills.

"I simply can not understand the logic of spending excessive amounts of taxpayers money on a line that will import dirty, fossil fuelled power into South Australia when it is excess to New South Wales needs only, when as a state we could be investing in producing clean, efficient and abundant wind power generation on Eyre Peninsula" she said.

The investment in South Australia by encouraging companies to build wind farms and their components here will ensure jobs are created in this state.

"The Deloitte Touch Tohmatsu report completed in December 2002 found that wind farms in our region could have a total positive economic impact of more than \$4 billion for this state, a far cry from the perceived benefits of the Labor Government's so called key initiative the SNI interconnector" Mrs Penfold said.

SNI INTERCONNECTOR

5 November 2002

Member for Flinders Liz Penfold said \$110 million garnered from South Australian power bills will go towards paying for the SNI interconnector from New South Wales in competition with the privately funded Murraylink interconnector from Victoria.

"The claim by the Minister for Energy, Pat Conlon, that the interconnector will mean lower electricity prices in South Australia is fallacious.

"The cost of the regulated line will be added to our power bills well into the future.

“In addition, the price that New South Wales users pay for power is subsidised by their State Government. It is ludicrous to suggest that South Australians will get power at the same price because it would mean that New South Wales residents were subsidising the cost of our use.”

“What is even more incomprehensible is that that power will only be available from New South Wales provided that it is in excess of that state’s needs.

“Hence during a power peak on a hot day or in a heat wave, we could well find virtually no power trickling across this expensive SNI interconnector into our households and industries,” she said.

Mrs Penfold is highly critical of Labor’s support for dirty power produced by out of date coal burning technology, particularly in view of State Labor’s refusal to upgrade infrastructure or support a regulated line on Eyre Peninsula so that a large proportion of the State’s power needs could be provided by sustainable non-polluting wind power.

“This is indefensible,” she said.

“The planning for wind generators has been done. It would take only a short time to erect the necessary power interconnectors to enable 1000 megawatts of green power turbines to be built, underpinning up to one billion dollars of private venture capital investment over the next five to ten years.”