

Mark Zirnsak

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 24 August 2020 6:05 PM
To: Mark Zirnsak
Subject: Feedback on Consultation Paper re Climate Change

Greetings Mark,

I'm confused – the JIM email dated 6 June last referring to the Consultation Paper: "Living in Harmony with Creation-What is the role of the Synod of Victoria & Tasmania in addressing climate change" said comments could be received by 31 August 2020 whereas within the body of the Paper (p4) a date of 31 July 2020 was stated! Be that as it may I've worked on the later date, so here are my comments for better or worse or rather for later than earlier!

Firstly can I congratulate you & those who contributed on a magnificently researched & presented paper. As predicted, I read the Executive Summary only!

*With respect to the proposed Synod Resolutions, I think (d) d(p4) requires refining. Some new coal mines & existing ones opting for expansion may be producing metallurgical not thermal coal.

The former, required for steel production, is fundamental for construction. I'm not an advocate for growth at all costs. However, there is a responsibility to contribute to the resources required for those don't have, to have on terms congenial to their informed needs. I find it difficult to imagine those not requiring steel!

*Turning to Item 7 (p5), the matter of natural gas developments; traditionally the use of natural gas in electricity generation is limited to quick start-up plant suitable for meeting demand peaking. As far as I know there are some 7 such plants located in a band in southern Victoria stretching from Bairnsdale in the east to Mortlake in the west. Whereas the existing solar electricity generating plant is located more in the northern section of the State in a band running from Mildura to Shepparton; more about that later!

Both solar & wind generation pose supply reliability problems. Yes, batteries of varying sizes are on the way, however, I think there is a short to medium term case to be argued for maintaining the availability of natural gas fired plant to meet any supply reliability problems. Whether, in terms of the overall natural gas market, this would require further natural gas development, of this I don't know.

*For solar & wind generation to make an effective long term contribution in Victoria the question of the development of an appropriate high voltage transmission network requires resolution.

The existing high voltage network, whilst being nearby in most cases – for example at Kerang & Red Cliffs Terminal Stations – requires appropriate linking to renewable energy sites.

As far as I'm aware, generally, this remains an issue awaiting resolution.

The matter of an effective high voltage electricity grid is a matter of national importance also.

Ross Garnaut in his "Super-Power"- an expose on Australia's possible use of its abundant renewable energy resources- argues for new, more wisely allocated investment in long-distance high-voltage interconnection, lowering its cost by allowing roles for investors prepared to accept lower rates of return on capital expenditure (p75).

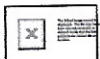
Likewise John Quiggan in his contribution to "Wrong Way – How Privatisation & Economic Reform Backfired" states the creation of a private national electricity market relies on the creation of a national grid – an agreement to construct same being made in 1991! (p154).

I trust you & your loved ones are keeping well ahead of the current pandemic.

All the best for the Synod journey,

Shalom

Garth



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