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**From:** John and Lindsey Williams [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 February 2019 12:45 PM  
**To:** DPTI:Planning Engagement  
**Cc:** Chris & Heather  
**Subject:** Re: Productive Economy Policy Consultation: Sub theme 3.1 - Renewable energy

Discussion question 'how should planning policy respond to growth in renewable energy- what issues should be addressed?'

My comments as follows:

- . climate change we are advised, by scientist across the world, is the most significant issue that mankind and planners will need to solve and the tipping point may have already occurred.
- . very few elected politicians seem to be taking this issue seriously either federally by making jokes about lumps of coal or in this state spending an inordinate amount of time in public discussion about which way trams should turn.
- . when Connie Bonaros raised serious issues directly relating to how planning policy should respond to growth in renewable energy, in the upper house, there appeared to be no interest what so ever from fellow members to even listen let alone spend time thinking about the issue. They turned around on mass and walked out of the chamber.
- . planning by definition is looking into the future and deciding the best approach to achieve the outcome. Building approval again by definition relates to built enclosures i.e. something with walls and a roof and associated works. If DPTI are required to give planning approvals for renewable energy sources then they need to be provided with the resources to understand the issues. Giving approvals for some of the tallest structures in Australia 1km from dwellings and 3kms from a significant rural centre with an outdated rules based approval system that is no longer relevant to the development in question seems short sighted if not downright crass.
- . DPTI cannot be expected to make any policy decision without the tools to make those decisions. Policy needs to be updated to keep up with not only technology changes but with current scientific understanding of very serious environmental issues. If DPTI hasn't got the expertise to make these policy changes then this advice needs to be fast tracked to keep up.
- . our current approval system for renewable energy projects has been designed by a previous government to kick start renewable energy in SA. It has done its job. Because of the speed of changes in this industry the approval system is seriously outdated. It's now providing massive cash incentives to off shore companies irrespective of the long term outcomes and short term pain.
- . our electrical network system across Australia is in massive upheaval. Power stations are being closed without a complete understanding of where future peak power will be provided. Again if DPTI are not provided with sufficient understanding on what is achievable within South Australia then any policy review is pointless.
- . if South Australia government policy is to pay for the necessary upgrades to the network by deferred payment in future service charges or quarterly bills then those upgrades need to be cost effective or we will end up a basket case state. Again DPTI needs the scientific and technological advice to make these policy changes.

. if a climate change tipping point is about to occur and the speed of change in industry have both vastly out stripped the approval process then an embargo needs to be put in place without further delay to any suspect proposed developments.

. South Australia townships outside Adelaide metropolitan area are fragile. Land suitable for food production is a finite asset. Designated conservation areas by definition need to be protected. If a rules based planning policy is too weak to protect these assets then they will increasingly come under pressure. There is much to celebrate and conserve in South Australia, let's have the policy and the policy makers it deserves. Go DPTI, you can do it, just don't get distracted by ministerial pressure. Jane Jacob is still a good read, and remember Goyder was laughed out of the house when he presented his report to parliament. Both of their policy guidelines are still relevant today, they just need to come back and update them for us.

John and Lindsey Williams

