

Barry Ladbrook
15 Colin St
Dalkeith WA 6009
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The Honourable Bill Marmion
160 Hampden Road
Nedlands WA 6009

Fremantle Community Wind Farm

Dear Mr Marmion,

I am writing to tell you what an exciting prospect the Fremantle Community Wind Farm (FCWF) is and how I think you should give it your enthusiastic support. By way of introduction, I grew up in Perth and after a number of years living in Melbourne and the UK, I have returned and I am delighted to be able to raise my family in Dalkeith. I am an economist who has worked in the energy sector for the past decade and currently work for an oil and gas company developing a large offshore gas project.

I recently learnt about the FCWF and was curious enough to investigate it further. It struck me as an innovative project that yields a large number of benefits without any downside, which I have summarised below.

An efficient local investment

The FCWF is a material investment in the local Fremantle area in the order of \$18 million. It will use land that is currently not used within the Fremantle port, which will enhance the use of this asset and provide an additional revenue stream to the Fremantle Port Authority. Further, the FCWF will provide power close to where it is demanded, reducing network losses.

Enhances the robustness of the energy system

The FCWF will increase the diversity of the Western Australian energy mix and improve the robustness of the overall energy system. Studies indicate that significant generation can be expected during peak periods, which further increases the resilience of the system. This is intuitive as the Fremantle sea breeze should provide regular generation during summer afternoons which coincides with peak demand associated with air conditioning.

Capacity building

The FCWF is an innovative project in that it integrates a wind farm into an industrial setting. Given the bullish prospects for wind generation globally, this is an amazing opportunity to develop practical experience and expertise that can be used to pursue opportunities in other projects and in other jurisdictions. It will also provide an easily accessible resource within the community for engineering and high school students to come and see the project, how it works, and analyse the output data.

High degree of local support

The FCWF plans to raise capital through crowd funding, meaning that it will need to have strong community support or the project will not proceed. However, there is evidence that it already has significant local support, in that it was able to raise over \$13,000 through crowd funding to develop some information resources.

I am aware that some people have sought to raise concerns over potential health effects from wind farms. However, the data is against such claims. There are many reputable studies into this issue which have not found any evidence that wind farms are responsible for adverse health effects. A recent study was undertaken for the South Australian EPA that included local residents keeping a diary noting when they perceived noise from the wind turbines. The report found that some residents reported such noises at times when the turbines were not operating.

Further, the actual residents of the town of Waubra have petitioned the Waubra Foundation requesting that it stops using the name of its town; stating that the directors of this foundation do not live in the area, have not consulted with people who do, and the residents are comfortable with winds as they provide them with much needed revenue and do not make them sick. I have included a copy of this letter. I believe it would be a retrograde step to allow concerns about trouble makers making baseless claims become a roadblock to economic development in this state.

Finally, the FCWF will also contribute to the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

After considering these issues, I am sure that you will agree that the FCWF is an exciting project that should be encouraged and supported.

As you are probably aware, the main issue holding up the development of the project is securing access to the sites within the Fremantle port. I would appreciate it if you can discuss this with the Premier and the Minister of Transport and advise me on how we can overcome such difficulties and move forward with the project.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours faithfully,

Barry Ladbrook