

## **Wind Power Fraud – Australia Can't Afford it**

Power bills have sky-rocketed and are set to double again - and all because of wind power.

Wind turbines are going up throughout rural Australia in an effort to satisfy the Federal Government's 2020 Renewable Energy Target (RET).

Every turbine is issued between 8,000 to 10,000 Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) every year, which is, in effect, a Federal Government tax on power consumers. Each REC is currently worth around \$35: a single turbine will be issued between \$280,000 and \$350,000 worth of RECs this year. Retailers are forced by the RET to take wind power at prices up to 4 times the cost of hydro, gas or coal fired power.

**Under the REC tax scheme power consumers are being forced to subsidise wind power. The REC tax and the exorbitant prices retailers are forced to pay for wind power are added directly to your power bills.**

The REC price will rise to \$90, if the current REC tax system is maintained. This means that wind farm operators will be issued between \$700,000 and \$900,000 worth of RECs for each turbine every year until 2031: a subsidy paid by power consumers, worth more than \$12 million per turbine.

**From now until 2031 RECs worth an estimated \$52 billion will be issued. As a result, household power prices are set to more than double again over the next 2-3 years.**

In South Australia wind power now makes up around 35% of its total generating capacity, all attracting the REC tax. With the REC tax and the exorbitant cost of wind power added directly to power bills, SA will soon have the highest retail power prices in the world.

If ripping off power consumers wasn't bad enough, incessant low-frequency noise from wind turbines is driving people out of their homes all over the Country, at places like Waubra and Waterloo, gutting our rural communities.

Wind turbines are not clean, not green and the cost consumers are forced to pay for the unreliable and intermittent power they produce is ridiculous. Because they are continually backed up by fossil fuel generators, wind turbines do not reduce greenhouse gases and the industry can't produce any actual evidence to show they do.

This is the greatest economic fraud Australia has ever seen. Federal Liberal MP, Alby Schulz and DLP Senator, John Madigan are investigating windfarm operators in breach of State planning laws and, therefore, collecting RECs worth tens of \$millions on a fraudulent basis.

Australia simply can't afford to let this go on any longer. There are smarter and cheaper ways to save the planet.

**To bring it to an end join "The Wind Power Fraud Rally" on June 18, 2013 at Parliament House, Canberra.**

Anyone who pays a power bill should be there to hear what the Coalition plans to do about it when it wins Government. For details of the Rally check <http://stopthesethings.com>