

Wind farms not always progress

RENEWABLES aren't synonymous with progress, as suggested by the Tasmanian Government seeking to charge Tasmania with the energy battery of Australia title. Most wind renewables in Tasmania are Chinese owned. The biggest wind farm in the southern hemisphere proposed for Robbins Island, in Tasmania's most important migratory shorebird habitat, will likely be foreign owned as will the new Bass Strait cables. The 50 ongoing jobs promised by the Robbins wind farm are meagre when viewed against profits going overseas and the impost of endangered bird deaths and visual pollution. Whilst more renewables may provide assurance of energy supply, they won't provide affordability security. If foreign owned energy increases, we become more dependent and vulnerable to their profit demands. Higher prices could mean industries move offshore or close down, equalling less employment. Government eagerness to pump power to mainland Australia from Tasmania's water supply should not supersede agricultural requirements for irrigation, and it makes no sense to risk neglect of this sector, especially when climate science suggests less reliable rainfall. Australia is only 10 per cent arable, so wouldn't it be better to invest in solar in the large tracts of desert on mainland Australia, the place needing energy?



BLOW: Not all sunshine

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