

170 Tom Livanos 181015

Sunday 18 October 2015

Dear Madam/Sir,

Thank-you for the opportunity to make this submission in relation to:

- The mothballing of the coal-fired power station in Port Augusta, South Australia; and
- The future of energy generation for Port Augusta, for Adelaide, for South Australia and, indeed, farther afield.

By way of introduction, my name is Tom Livanos. I consider myself to be a citizen of the Earth - born in Sydney and now living in Armidale, New South Wales. I write to you - foremost - as someone who is excited about the possibilities of transitioning to an economy based on distributed and renewable forms of energy generation. I also write to you as a person who is concerned about the legacy that I will leave and that this generation will leave on those who have not yet been born. This includes, but is not limited to, a concern regarding anthropogenic climate change.

I make the submission after being alerted to this process by the Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC) via their email, forwarded below. In doing so, I wish to state my support for their submission as outlined at http://www.aycc.org.au/sa_submission

The remainder of the submission you are now reading is to make three points regarding practicalities and to conclude by taking a step back.

Point 1. The most obvious and commonly stated restriction on the use of sunlight to generate energy is the fact that the sun does not shine at night or through clouds. At the level of concentrated solar thermal power plants, this limitation may be addressed via the use of molten salts storage mechanisms. In addition and more recently, a new battery technology has emerged. Developed by Tesla Motors, the Powerwall battery is capable of being scaled up ad-infinitum. I refer you to the following video where Tesla Motors Chief Executive Officer Mr Elon Musk launched the battery on 30 April 2015: <https://vimeo.com/126695958> Note: these batteries can be applied at a residential, at a business and at an industrial scale. The harnessing and storage of solar energy is, in all likelihood, set to continue doing as it has done over the last 15-50 years: improve.

Point 2. Sunlight is capable of meeting our energy needs 5,000 times over (see: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9UPv_M8grmk). Furthermore, the energy potential within the sun's rays has been known to us since the 1880s* (reference: United States Geological Survey.) Over a similar time period, it is corporations that have provided and, indeed come to dominate, worldwide economic activity. For whatever reason, corporations have not invested in solar power.

At the same time, harnessing sunlight to generate energy allows individuals to produce the energy which they consume. More generally, cities and other localities can become more self-reliant. Note: it is no replacement for energy efficiency i.e. achieving outcomes without

the need for energy generation. It seems to me that, if we are to transition to a sustainable energy economy, **it is government support that will accomplish it**. It was government support that enabled the petroleum-based automotive and aeronautical industries to be established in the first half of the 20th Century.

Point 3. Much of the discussion surrounding humanity's present need to transition to sustainability is centred around jobs. It may interest you to know that, in the 1980s when Regional Forestry Agreements were being negotiated, former loggers were retrained as forest rangers. Despite the much publicised and sometimes ugly confrontations, loggers were in an ideal position for taking up this new, more sustainable line of work. My point here: the transition from coal-fired power stations to renewable energy generation will work best if the government/parliament works with the community it is elected to serve. This work includes working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities (of which I am not a member.)

More broadly, there is no unemployment in a sustainable economy - ever. Reason: each of us (excepting people with extreme medical conditions) is taking responsibility for the materials we consume. If there is a need for specialisation, the first area to be considered is in learning about this, our only home - planet Earth (or planet Water.) Despite 15-20 years studying and/or working in financial services, economics, accounting etc., I did not learn the derivation of the word economy. It comes from the Greek and means 'management of one's house'. It is surely ecology - 'awareness of one's house' - which must precede it. This is where full employment for all time may be accomplished. It is especially true in Australia with its size, unique geological history and diversity.

In writing so simply and honestly, it may appear that I am trivialising the significant hurdles which come with change - with any change. I assure you that it is not my intention to trivialise anything. Changing to an economy which is sustainable is one mighty challenge. That stated, may I assure you that it is one of the challenges facing us in the 21st Century (at least as I see it.) If we do not transition to sustainability, what is the value of anything else which we are undertaking at this time? Once we have an economy which is sustainable, we have an economy which is sustainable. In other words, the challenges which come with this change will be over. The far easier task of maintaining sustainability would be the next challenge.

Finally, I am underneath everything else, thankful for the lifetime efforts of our collective ancestors. If those efforts were absent, I would not even be able to write these very words to you. This stated, we are at a critical juncture in our history. We are capable of meeting these challenges. It is life force which gives rise to this capability. I invite you to find your inner strength - the strength which you were born with. Even if it means that you disregard everything else I have written to you here, my submission then is that you go with whatever you find within yourself.

This concludes my submission.

Although it is probably outside standard protocol, I am open to responses - be they now or at any time in the future i.e. even after the current submission and decision making

processes have come to an end. My contact details are at top-right of this submission.

I thank you for your time and for all attention provided.

Yours sincerely,
Mr Tom Livanos.

* Note: the energy present in sunlight may have been known to us since ancient times.

Hey Tom,

South Australia - it's heaps good, but it could be heaps better.

For 4 years now, the AYCC has been working alongside the community in Port Augusta and our friends in the movement to replace their now closing coal fired power stations with Australia's first solar thermal tower. Remember when 100 people walked 328km from Port Augusta to Adelaide to back the community's call for solar? [Well, the community needs us to stand up again.](#)

But first, some back story. A few years ago, it became clear to the Port Augusta community that the coal stations that had provided jobs to the town, but also had harmed the community's health, would close soon.

Following a report by Beyond Zero Emissions that highlighted the potential to create new jobs by building a solar thermal plant in Port Augusta, the community started organising to pressure the State and Federal Governments to invest in a transition for the community.

That was four years ago, but just last week it was announced that the coal station would close by March, making this a difficult time for many in the Port Augusta, and surrounds.

With the impending closure, it's more important than ever that the SA Government steps up for solar thermal - we have an opportunity right now to get them to do it. The South Australian Government has opened up consultations with the community on its climate change strategy. This is your chance to be part of making Australia's first solar thermal happen, [sign on to the AYCC submission today or write your own.](#)

This consultation gives us the opportunity to set the wheels in motion for making solar thermal in Port Augusta happen, and to push SA to be cleaner and fairer. [That's why we've put together 8 ways to make SA Cleaner and Fairer that you can sign on to.](#)

We'll list all the names of people who back our submission on the version we send the government. If enough of us believe in a vision for a cleaner and fairer SA, powered by renewable energy with low carbon jobs for all, we can lead and the government can follow. [**Can we add your name to the list, Tom?**](#)

This isn't just about South Australia though. Other state governments are looking for leadership on climate policy with Victoria, NSW and Queensland all looking to update their targets and policies, setting themselves apart from the Federal government. SA could lead the way with 100% renewables, a moratorium on new fossil fuel projects and fair access to clean energy for all.

We need the Australian community behind us on this one - [will you sign onto our submission '8 ways to make SA Cleaner & Fairer'?**](#)**

Insiders are telling us the SA Government is looking to the community for leadership right now in the lead up to the Paris climate talks, let's show them that we want solar thermal for Port Augusta and a cleaner, fairer South Australia.

Thanks for your support,

Dan – AYCC

P.S. Coal communities across the country are looking for ways to transform their local economies and support the workers through the transition to a renewable energy economy. Port Augusta can pave the way for folks in the La Trobe and Hunter Valleys to free themselves from coal dust and pollution, by transitioning to a diverse and clean economy.