Double Glaze Matters

MAY 2011

Alan Cuthbertson

alan@diydoubleglaze.com.au

Let's Build a Brown Coal Power Station

Last Friday the EPA gave approval to build another 300 MW brown coal fired power station …

What is the biggest contributor to greenhouse gas in Victoria? Burning brown coal to generate power. Brown coal is very low quality coal and high in moisture content. This means that it emits more CO_2 than a black fired coal station to generate the same amount of energy.

So, what would be the stupidest thing we could do in Victoria? Build another one!

And that is exactly what they plan to do. Last Friday the EPA gave approval to build another 300 MW brown coal fired power station in the Latrobe Valley.

The logic behind it is that it is more efficient than our existing coal fired power stations. That wouldn't be hard. Hazelwood is the worst in the developed world.

I suppose I could see some logic in it if the plan was to build the station and close down the equivalent amount of Hazelwood, then replace the new power station in 10 years with a zero emission power station. That is not the plan. Build the station and run if for 30 years.

The government has already contributed $150 million to the project and plan another $50 million. That would buy a lot of renewable power.

Continued over page

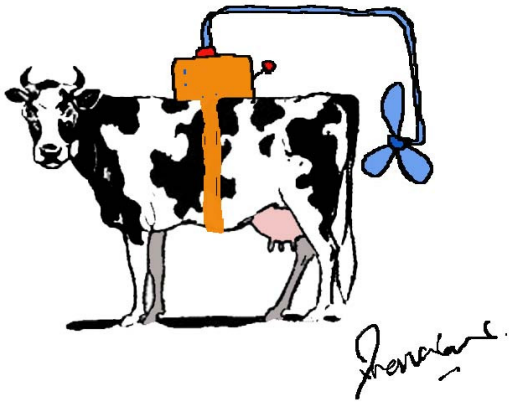
Stop Coal Fired Power Station

Sign a petition from Environment Victoria:
www.environmentvictoria.org.au/say-no-new-coal-power-victoria

March on World Environment day:
When: Sunday, 5 June 2011
Time: 10:45 onwards for 11am start
Meeting Point: The State Library. ATA will meet at the Little Lonsdale and Swanston St corner of the library forecourt.

Inside this issue:

The "*Country Breeze*" DIY wind farm kit for the hobby farmer.



Franciscus Henri's solution....

Let's Build a Brown Coal Power Station (cont)

The only hope at the moment is that the banks are refusing to finance it. Maybe they are smarter than our government and can see that such a station has no future. It is a worry when we rely on banks to solve environmental problems!

The other disconcerting fact is that it is called a "demonstration power plant" This suggests that if it "works" (i.e generates 30% less emissions than Hazelwood) we will build lots of them!

Why not just build renewable power stations?

What Chance Failure? Part II

... We only need to look at North Africa to see how quickly the mood of a country can change and how things can spiral out of control..

Last month I spoke about the risk of significant climate changes from our continued emitting of CO_2. Basically we are doing a great big experiment to which there is no Plan B.

I wanted to take it a little further and talk about the sociological risks that we could be heading for.

The problem is that small changes in the environment can lead to large changes in society. We have all been horrified by the destruction that has occurred by the tornadoes in America. While America has always suffered from tornados, I suspect there frequency and size will be effected by climate change. Similarly bigger cyclones in Queensland are likely to be more common.

And this is where the problem lies. A small increase in the size of a cyclone or tornado disproportionately increases the damage and death. 20% bigger can cause 100% increase in death and destruction.

In western countries, this can be accommodated. We have the wealth and resources to assist those effected and overcome the problems. However for poorer nations and people living a subsistence life, a single weather event or a failed crop can have enormous effect.

The reaction of the people can also be disproportionate, especially if it is exploited by the political leaders.

I can well imagine the situation where a poor undeveloped country suffers a drought or flood which is blamed on climate change. This in turn is blamed on rich western countries, especially if they are seen as not doing there bit to fight climate change.

If the people are desperate enough and angry enough, unexpected and uncontrolled problems can arise.

We only need to look at North Africa to see how quickly the mood of a country can change and how things can spiral out of control.

So, not only are we carrying out an enormous experiment on our climate but this may well lead to an enormous sociological experiment.

The risk is just to high.