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WIND FARM FAIRNESS AND CERTAINTY UNDER A COALITION GOVERNMENT

A Victorian Liberal Nationals Coalition Government will restore fairness and certainty to the planning system for wind farms if elected in November.

The Brumby Government has allowed wind farms to divide country communities.

Despite being in office for nearly eleven years, Labor has failed to set clear guidelines on location, placement and compensation issues for wind farms.

It is time to give local communities the key role in deciding where wind farms will go and restore certainty to the planning process for wind farms.

Key features of the Coalition's wind farm policy include:

- the placement of turbines no less than two kilometres from the nearest home unless a contract between the resident and wind farm developer is agreed;

- the reinstatement of local government as the planning authority for wind farm applications;

- the establishment of a shared payment system for landowners whose properties are within one kilometre of the nearest turbine, as a compensation mechanism for adjacent landholders;

- the establishment of 'no-go' zones for wind farms at places such as Wilson's Promontory, the Mornington and Bellarine Peninsulas, Surf Coast and Great Ocean Road regions, McHarg and Macedon Ranges, Dandenong and Yarra Ranges and sections of the Bass Coast;

- the exclusion of wind farms in or near National and State Parks, designated tourist areas and designated regional population growth corridors; and

- the public availability of all data on the energy output of wind farms.

A Coalition Government will also establish new guidelines relating to the construction and operation of wind energy facilities to monitor noise and strobe lighting impacts on nearby residents as well as shadow flicker and bird kills at wind farm sites.

Policy

The Coalition supports the development of the renewable energy sector as an important contributor to the sustainable delivery of Victoria's future energy needs.

Our wind energy plan is fair and reasonable and will provide certainty to operators and communities. We will minimise the effect of wind farms on our natural environment and ensure that our coastal landscapes are protected.

This policy is about ending the division caused by Labor's years of inaction on proper wind energy guidelines and will give certainty to the wind energy industry and to communities where wind farms are located.