THE GOLDEN EGG

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NUCLEAR DINOSAUR

- WINDSCALE, CHELYABINSK, HARRISBURG, CHERNOBYL, FUKUSHIMA...!
- Japan has a BIT of a problem with the 3 core meltdowns at Fukushima
- Now plans to release vast amounts of radioactive waste water into Pacific
- Conflict emerging with China
- Need we say more about the folly of nuclear
CLIMATE CHANGE & OTHER MATTERS

- Ongoing refutation of climate change, but only possible doubt is future modelling
- Not the only reason to get off dinosaur energies
- In a sustainable society, energy should be sourced locally (not in a war zone)
- Only long-term viable solution therefore is renewable energy
- Better for energy security, employment, air quality, etc, etc
- Need we say more?
Windfarm in Galway

Need we say more...?
AMBITIOUS IRELAND

- Republic of Ireland’s ambitious Climate Action Plan (2019)
- 4,000 MW onshore wind on top of existing ~4,000MW
- 3,500 MW offshore wind, raised to 5,000MW in 2020 Prog. for Government
- Also longer term plan for 30,000MW of floating wind off the West coast
- Also 1,500MW solar, batteries and other complementary technologies
- Net zero carbon by 2050
- Community generation projects
BUT (there’s always a but, or two...!)

- The nominally independent Valuation Office has for some reason decided to absolutely screw wind in the Republic, with a view to a much higher rates take.

- Wind never had an issue with paying rates to Councils until they were suddenly trebled/quadrupled starting in 2014, for wind (but not others!)

- Done to projects that already received REFIT price support where the original rates levels were assumed by both Government & wind sector.

- This is retrospective change, compromising existing projects, dis-incentivising new ones, bad policy, but Government has so far refused to fix it.
### SUMMARY OF THE PROBLEM

Based on incomplete data

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<th>€/MW/yr</th>
<th>Old rates</th>
<th>Rates after Reval</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fossil fuel generation</strong></td>
<td>Avg 6,535</td>
<td><strong>Avg 6,700</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Max 12,655</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Min 4,529</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wind</strong></td>
<td>Avg 7,016</td>
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<td><strong>Avg 14,990</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Max 22,277</td>
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<td>Min 5,667</td>
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WIND

USED TO PAY €8 million
NOW PAYS €22 million

Produces 24% Electricity

FOSSIL FUELS

USED TO PAY €20 million
NOW PAYS €19 million

Produces 71% Electricity
STATE AID

- Taxing one subsector more than another in a common market is state aid
- Ergo, fossil fuel plants are now receiving state aid vs. wind (& solar?)
- IWFA complained to the European Commission in 2016, then sued at ECJ
- Judgment pending, may force Commission into formal state aid investigation
- Wind sector has offered solutions to Government, but has been ignored
- Tricky political problem at local level, as this audience will appreciate
DON’T KILL THE GOLDEN GOOSE

- Wind & solar bring a significant, growing rates base to more deprived areas
- They are a ‘Golden Goose’
- But screwing them is the wrong approach & will kill the goose
- In order to double (or more) rates income for Local Authorities:
  - Raise the number of MWs of projects in each LA area,
  - NOT the rates per project...!
- Renewables WANT to contribute, but not get ripped off, or shut down..!
The intention was to have two types of RESS-supported community projects:
- Community owned (100%)
- Community led (>50%), to allow experienced developers support communities

Minister Ryan stated in February that the latter will not be allowed into the Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS)

Without the knowledge & indeed finance of experienced developers, very few community projects will overcome the horrendous risks (which they are not aware of)

Expect a lot of disappointment (unless that announcement is reversed)
The 2019 Climate Change Action Plan was a watershed

Expect a massive ramp up in renewables in general in the Republic, big reduction in emissions and fossil fuel imports

Government needs to get out of its own way...!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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