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Presentation materials
[| accessible here](#)

ABSTRACT

Three interested parties?

The nation's energy transition from fossil fuels to wind farms, solar farms and pumped hydro is resulting in opposition from three interested parties. First there are those who argue that the aesthetic beauty of landscapes and seascapes are diminished with the instillation of wind and solar farms. Second is the objection by some environmental advocates that these farms kill or adversely impact wildlife; in general, have an adverse impact on biodiversity. The construction of hydro-electric dams are objected to on the same principle. The third objection is that on economic grounds there are less expensive forms of meeting our future energy needs, while protecting biodiversity. Fundamental questions arise. The first is: are the asserted claims of adverse impacts, including costs, justified? This has to be answered before any further considerations. If the claims are proven, is it possible to circumvent them by alternate design features and/or different locations? If this is not feasible, what ability do we have to offset inevitable adverse impacts. Ultimately we come to the essence of this conundrum: are we expanding EIA beyond its intention and ability? The unequivocal answer is 'no'. This talk will provide evidence aimed to persuade. If not successful, it will be the basis for a most interesting discussion.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Fondly known as the Green Viking, Professor Tor Hundloe is recognised as Australia's pioneer of environmental economics, having been at the forefront of research, teaching and practical management in this field for almost four decades. He has served as President of the Queensland Conservation Council, Councillor of the Australian Conservation Foundation, a founding member of the Queensland and National Environmental Law Associations, founder and president of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand, Environment Commissioner for the Industry Commission and Chair of Keep Australia Beautiful. In 2003, he became the first Australian to be awarded an Order of Australia in recognition of his contribution to environmental economics. Professor Hundloe writes regularly for The Courier Mail and occasionally for The Australian, and, in addition to numerous research papers, reports and texts, has published two books in a planned trilogy: From Buddha to Bono and The Planet of Thinking Animal.