

## Guy Barnett MP

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Tasmanian Government **Media Release**

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Guy Barnett, Minister for Energy and Renewables

### Targeted approach to supporting Tasmanians

Today we have more of the same from an inexperienced and under-done Labor who only care about cheap media stunts– not about supporting Tasmanians.

Mr Winter and Labor need to explain what essential services they would cut to fund their flawed price cap – teachers, doctors, nurses or do they suggest we build less houses for the homeless?

Introducing a price cap on wholesale electricity prices would be the wrong move for our State and for Tasmanians who need support the most.

It would result in less funding for the essential services Tasmanians need like health, education and housing and make our future energy supply less secure and reliable, as energy generators look to take their business elsewhere leaving our island with no way to supply increased energy needs and business growth.

Instead, the Tasmanian Government is taking a targeted approach, supporting those who need it most, while helping Tasmanians to lower their bills through tools and investing in energy efficient products.

The Tasmanian Government has announced a targeted package of measures that will support Tasmanians including a \$180 Winter Buster discount for Tasmania's 94,230 eligible concession card holders costing \$17 million; a boosted and expanded \$50 million energy saver loan scheme for residential customers and small businesses to help families and businesses invest in energy efficiency measures to help future bill shock; no charge for aurora+ from 1 July 2022; and a \$1.7 million Aurora Customer Support Fund to support residential and small business customers experiencing financial vulnerability.

Our long-held policy is for Tasmania to have the lowest, or amongst the lowest, electricity prices in the country and that is still the case today, despite the challenges being faced this year.

Last year prices reduced by 7 per cent for residential and 11 per cent for small business customers while under Labor and the Greens, electricity prices increased by a massive 65 per cent.

The National Energy Market is extremely complex, but we cannot afford to make knee-jerk reactions that will make our future energy supply less secure and reliable - we risk our energy generators looking to take their business elsewhere leaving our island with no way to supply increased energy needs and business growth in the future.

Projects such as Marinus Link, Battery of the Nation and green hydrogen are front and center in energy security, reducing carbon emissions and putting downward pressure on electricity prices in the future.