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Tasmanian Government **Media Release**

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Guy Barnett, Minister for Energy and Renewables

Reckless and uninformed Dean Winter puts our future at risk

Dean Winter's hopeless obsession with media stunts continues, as he double downs his flawed energy power price stunt and delinking from the National Electricity Market while having absolutely no understanding of what the consequences of his actions would be.

Labor's sheltered view to disconnect Tasmania from Australia would seriously undermine our energy security and would mean we miss out on the opportunity to generate more lower cost renewable energy, lose out in new investment in our State, and see whole new industries bypass our State as well as the jobs from these new industries and investments.

Dean Winter's proposed energy price cap legislation is reckless and he has again shown that he will use any opportunity and any means to turn his thought bubble into reality.

By playing politics on renewable energy, Labor have shown their ignorance and misunderstanding of what's at stake here. There's no other reason to explain why they would advocate for reckless policies which would make Tasmania's future energy supply less secure and reliable, and risk our energy generators taking their business elsewhere - leaving our island with no way to supply increased energy needs and business growth in the future.

Make no mistake, Labor's approach would put our energy security and reliability at risk and put jobs and new investment in jeopardy.

Our State's credentials as 100 per cent self-sufficient in renewables, and our target of 200 per cent, and our Net Zero status would be negatively impacted. Tasmania's energy opportunities are substantial, creating jobs and investment, putting downward pressure on prices and cementing Tasmania's renewable brand which holds valuable benefits for Tasmanian business.

With new investments in renewable energy through projects such as Marinus Link, Battery of the Nation and green hydrogen, Tasmania can be the smartest, cleanest and most innovative State in the nation.

Shame on Labor for wanting to put this all at risk, stifle investment, risk jobs, create unstable and costly energy outcomes for Tasmanian families and destroy our renewable energy future by taking Tasmania out of the National Electricity Market.

In response to cost of living pressures facing Tasmanians this year, the Tasmanian Government is taking a targeted approach, supporting those who need it most, while helping Tasmanians to lower their bills through targeted assistance packages and investing in energy efficient products.

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

The Tasmanian Government is focussed on supporting Tasmanians through this challenging time, not on the politics and media stunts being recklessly pursued by a divided Tasmanian Labor Party.