

Guy Barnett MP

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Tasmanian Government **Media Release**

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Guy Barnett, Minister for Energy and Renewables

Labor living in the past on energy

If Dean Winter wants to live in the past, then feel free. Perhaps he can have a chat to Lara Giddings while he's there, whose Labor-Green Government oversaw massive power price increases of 65 per cent.

Our Government is focused on the here and now, and on the future to ensure all Tasmanians can benefit from the opportunities in front of us.

Let's be very clear – Labor's 2022 policy to exit the National Electricity Market would destroy new investments in renewable energy and new industries, leaving Tasmania in the dark ages.

In fact, Mr Winter has previously supported these investments as recently as February of this year, when he visited UPC's Robbins Island project in the North West and said the project would "create hundreds of construction jobs in the region and produce clean energy for Tasmania and the rest of the country".

Tasmania's renewable energy credentials would be at risk and we would be highly exposed and more vulnerable to extreme weather events. Tasmania's credentials as 100% self-sufficient in renewables, and our target of 200% and our Net Zero status would be negatively impacted.

Labor cannot have it both ways. Jobs and livelihoods right around Tasmania depend on our participation in the NEM and people deserve better than to have Mr Winter scaremonger and fear when it comes to a critical matter such as energy policy.

We do understand the current pressures facing Tasmanians, which is our Winter Energy Assistance Package is providing targeted support to those most in need.

As part of the Tasmanian Government's broader Winter Energy Assistance Package, the targeted \$180 Winter Bill Buster payment for the estimated 94,230 Tasmanians on concession cards and also

eligible customers in embedded networks, will start rolling out from tomorrow. This discount will be made up of the \$61 concession increase that was budgeted to flow to concession card holders this year, plus a bill credit of \$119 to help offset the increase.

The Tasmanian Liberal Government is focused on seeing Tasmania leverage our competitive advantages, grow our economy and jobs, and keep downward pressure on energy prices, and that's exactly what we're doing.

By contrast, Labor has absolutely nothing to offer except lame stunts - to the point where they can't even be trusted to run their own party, as evidenced by the hostile mainland takeover of the party announced on Friday.