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Guy Barnett, Minister for Energy

Norske Skog energy agreement a major win for Tasmania

The Hodgman majority Liberal Government's number one priority is to create jobs, grow the economy and protect the Tasmanian way of life, which is why we continue to back Tasmanian businesses to grow, invest and employ.

We are pleased to announce Hydro Tasmania and Norske Skog have reached an agreement on energy supply that helps to secure Norske Skog's operation at the Boyer site.

Norske Skog is a major industrial energy customer in Tasmania. Their Boyer site employs 270 Tasmanians, producing newsprint and publication papers for the world.

We understand that keeping energy costs as low as possible is a key concern for businesses and households.

Importantly, our plan to keep downward pressure on energy prices is working, with the Tasmanian Economic Regulator's most recent reports showing Tasmanian small to medium businesses experience among the lowest power prices in the nation. The recent Energy Consumer Australia report also confirmed our medium sized business customers experienced the lowest power bills in Australia.

Tasmania's economy is going from strength to strength, our abundant renewable energy is a key competitive advantage for our state and we are working hard to make the most of the opportunities it presents.

Australia's electricity market is in a period of dramatic change, and through our Battery of the Nation and Marinus Link projects, opportunity exists to take advantage of our abundant natural resources and significantly expand Tasmania's renewable energy capacity – delivering billions of dollars and thousands of local jobs.

Importantly, Tasmanians will always come first, and our Tasmania First Energy policy is focused on delivering Tasmanian residents and businesses the lowest regulated electricity prices in the nation. We are on track to be 100 per cent self-sufficient in renewables by 2022.