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Tasmanian Government **Media Release**

1 August 2022

Guy Barnett, Minister for Energy and Renewables

Winter and Labor out of their depth on dam levels and energy security

Today's announcement by Hydro is another demonstration why Tasmania must remain in the National Energy Market.

After one of the driest winters on record, Hydro Tasmania has adjusted its energy generation profile for the coming months and is prudently managing its water resources.

This is a sensible and conservative approach that will ensure dam levels are maintained appropriately and will result in Basslink being used more to maintain its storage levels during this time, which we support.

Importantly, there are no concerns with Tasmania's energy security and Tasmanians can continue using energy as they normally would.

Hydro Tasmania's dam storage levels are actively monitored against benchmark storage levels, which was an additional safeguard put in place following significant challenges to Tasmanian energy supply during 2015-16 – and the system is working.

This is exactly why Tasmania remains connected to the NEM - to safeguard against adverse weather events such as this, not to mention the immense opportunities it allows in terms of jobs and investment.

Dean Winter should admit Labor's policy to de-link from the National Energy Market belongs in the past and shows he is totally out of his depth in this portfolio.

He should also stick to the facts. This calendar year Tasmania has been a net importer of energy and NOT exporting heavily as falsely claimed by Mr Winter.