

## Guy Barnett MP

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Guy Barnett, Minister for Energy and Renewables

### Labor clueless on energy policy

With our renewable energy credentials, Tasmania is in the box-seat as the energy market transforms to increased reliance on renewable energy, especially the reliable hydro power that our State can produce.

Labor's sheltered view to disconnect Tasmania from Australia would mean that we would 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.

By playing politics on renewable energy, Ms Finlay and 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.

Let's be 100 per cent clear - Labor has no energy policy and no energy plan. Instead they want to plunge our State into the dark ages by stifling investment and jobs growth.

Without links to the National Electricity Market (NEM), Tasmania's renewable energy credentials would be at risk and we would be highly exposed and more vulnerable to extreme weather events.

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

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pressure on prices and cementing Tasmania's renewable brand which holds valuable benefits for Tasmanian business.

Shame on Labor that they want 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. It is now clear Labor is not supportive of Marinus Link, Battery of the Nation or green hydrogen, along with the jobs these initiatives will create.

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 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 among 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.

Labor has no credibility when it comes to energy policy.