



**29 August 2018**

**Guy Barnett, Minister for Energy**

## **TasNetworks Generator Forum**

Electricity generation companies have taken part in a forum in Hobart today to plan the future of Tasmania's electricity system and unlock billions in investment and thousands of jobs.

The Hodgman Liberal Government, through TasNetworks, is working hand-in-hand with generators to map out our future demand and supply of renewable energy for Tasmanians.

This will ensure that companies have the confidence to invest and that Tasmanians receive a benefit in terms of low-cost, reliable, renewable energy.

Further interconnection across Bass Strait is the key, as it allows excess renewable energy generated in the State to be exported to the mainland at premium prices, with the profits returning to Tasmania.

This also supports Battery of the Nation projects including pumped hydro, which will drive billions in investment and create thousands of jobs in Tasmania.

TasNetworks will work closely with all generators on their transmission requirements whether that be wind farms or pumped hydro sites.

The Hodgman Liberal Government is working closely with UPC Renewables and other wind developers, as well as Hydro Tasmania and TasNetworks to coordinate planning for Tasmania's renewable energy development opportunities.

Furthermore, UPC are currently working on a draft development approval for projects at Robbins Island and Jim's Plains, which could create investment of more than \$1.5 billion and over 400 construction jobs in North West Tasmania.

This further supports our Tasmania-First Energy Policy, which has the ambitious target of Tasmania having the lowest regulated power prices by 2022, and to be fully self-sufficient with renewable energy in the same timeframe.