

## Guy Barnett MP

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Tasmanian Government **Media Release**

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Guy Barnett, Minister for Energy and Renewables

### More mistruths from Dean Winter and Labor

The latest scare campaign by Dean Winter highlights why the Tasmanian Labor Party is in federal receivership and not fit to govern.

Mr Winter has been caught out falsely claiming that power prices for Tasmanian families (i.e. regulated residential customers) will increase by 75 per cent over the next two years. In fact, current regulated electricity prices for Tasmanian families are locked-in until June 30 next year.

No where has Mr Winter explained in his tortured mathematics how he has arrived at his false claim. He has completely ignored the fact that the Independent Economic Regulator sets Tasmanian electricity prices for regulated customers, including households and small businesses.

For Mr Winter to claim there will be an increase in electricity prices for Tasmanian families before this Christmas is also an appalling furphy and shows he is completely out of his depth in the energy portfolio.

It comes off the back of a very long line of false and sensationalist claims when it comes to energy.

Yesterday Mr Winter claimed that Tasmanians cannot access the Energy Saver Loan Scheme – FALSE.

He claimed that the Winter Bill Buster Payments were not fully funded – FALSE.

Yesterday he made claims about the Tamar Valley Power Station – FALSE.

Just a few weeks ago, Mr Winter claimed that Hydro Tasmania had lost a hundred million dollars in the first few months of this year – FALSE.

Earlier this year, he claimed “lights potentially out for Tasmania,” – FALSE.

Last year, he claimed that the State’s actions in regards to Basslink put our energy security at risk – FALSE. In fact the State’s actions have seen a great outcome with Basslink and \$50 million recovered for Tasmania under an arbitration decision.

He also claimed that TasNetworks was overcharging customers – FALSE. This was strongly refuted by the Australian Energy Regulator and the TasNetworks CEO.

The facts are that under the previous Labor government, electricity prices increased by 65 per cent – TRUE.

Since coming to Government in 2014 electricity prices for Tasmania residential customers have decreased by 15.4 per cent in real terms and 25 per cent in real terms for business customers – TRUE.

Our regulated electricity prices have recently been confirmed by the Independent Economic Regulator as being the lowest, or among the lowest, in the nation – TRUE.

Elections are about trust and having a plan for Tasmania – not fabricating false information to chase a cheap headline while scaring Tasmanians.

If Mr Winter wants to do something useful, he should be calling on his federal colleagues to honour their commitment to reduce electricity prices by \$275 by 2025, which was conveniently missing from this week’s Federal Budget.