



5 July 2018

Guy Barnett, Minister for Energy

Battery of the Nation

The Hodgman Liberal Government is a strong advocate of renewable electricity generation, and the Battery of the Nation project will further cement Tasmania's reputation as a leader when it comes to clean energy production.

Last month I joined with the Federal Minister for Energy, Josh Frydenberg, to announce the identification of 14 'high potential' pumped hydro energy storage sites, many of which are located in North-West Tasmania.

The Battery of the Nation has the potential to create up to 3000 jobs and generate up to \$5 billion in investment.

The Hodgman Liberal Government is standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the Federal Government, working together on the game-changing Battery of the Nation initiative, as well as the progression of work on a second Bass Strait interconnector. Both these initiatives are nation building infrastructure projects.

With other mainland states shutting down fossil-fuel powered stations and looking more closely at renewable generation, this presents a massive opportunity for Tasmania.

Tasmania is well on the way to achieving 100 per cent self-sufficient renewable generation by 2022, with a number of hydro and wind projects currently underway, putting us in a position to sell excess renewable energy to the mainland.

An important part of pumped hydro projects is to inform local communities on the benefits of this nation-leading initiative. As such, I will be joining Hydro Tasmania over the coming months visiting local communities to explain how renewable energy developments, such as pumped hydro, will benefit them.

The first community engagement event is on 25 July in Cressy, and I encourage everyone who is interested to come along.