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Guy Barnett, Minister for Energy and Renewables

Liberal Government taking Tasmania forward on energy while Labor languishes in the past

Today, energy ministers from across the country are discussing how to transition the nation to a renewable energy future, with Tasmania a leader in this process.

Given this, it's staggering that Labor continues to show how out of their depth they are when it comes to energy.

Labor's policy to exit the National Electricity Market will take Tasmania back to the dark ages.

Let's be very clear- renewable energy development in Tasmania would be put at risk if Labor were in Government and exited the NEM. Developers would look elsewhere, jobs and investment would flow to other states and countries, and Tasmania would go backwards.

Importantly, with less energy going into the grid and no back up energy sources, Tasmania's energy security would also be highly exposed and put at risk in case of extreme weather events.

Our Government is focused on the here and now, and on the future to ensure we can create jobs and investment, while strengthening our energy security for the long term.

By contrast, Labor's policy is negative, flawed, and would take Tasmania backwards.

Additionally, the Tasmanian Government understands the impact that cost of living is having in our community, and is taking action to ease the burden for those that need it through our Winter Energy Assistance Package, and more specifically our \$180 Bill Buster payment for eligible concession card

holders.

What Labor isn't telling Tasmanians is that our bill buster payment provides a better outcome for most concession customers than their 2.5 per cent price cap.

Since we came to Government in 2014 electricity prices for Tasmanian residential customers have only increased by 5.8 per cent in nominal terms and have actually decreased by 15.4 per cent in real terms.

By contrast, prices went up 65 per cent under the former Labor-Green Government.

You simply can't trust Labor with energy.