



Lara Giddings, MP

Premier

Sunday, 5 February 2012

Liberal Rift Over Carbon Pricing

The Premier, Lara Giddings called on the leader of the Opposition, Will Hodgman to declare whether there was a rift between the Federal and State Liberal party over carbon pricing.

Ms Giddings said that it was bizarre that Matthew Groom was talking about carbon price benefits for Tasmania, when his Federal leader, Tony Abbott had vowed to repeal the very legislation that underpins it.

“If the Liberals really believe in Tasmania’s clean energy future how could they support Tony Abbott’s policy to repeal carbon pricing,” Ms Giddings said.

“As for the Liberals pushing renewable energy projects for Tasmania, they are once again playing catch up.

“Tasmania is already recognised as the renewable energy powerhouse of Australia and the Government is committed to maintaining this status with several initiatives already underway including:

- The \$400 million Musselroe wind farm approved by government in December last year.
- Hydro Tasmania’s three year \$40.9 million King Island Renewable Energy Integration Project commenced last year.
- A \$30 million Renewable Energy Loan Scheme, including projects involving solar, wind, mini-hydro and gas produced from the ‘bio-digestion’ of biomass.
- The Tasmanian Planning Commission is working to maximise the number of renewable energy projects that meet planning scheme requirements without the need for a more costly and longer discretionary planning and approval process.

“The Government has also maintained a long standing position not to sell the Hydro, yet only now do the the Liberals claim to support Labor’s position.

“In regards to a second Basslink interconnector the Government would want to be very sure that it would not mean further unnecessary price rises for Tasmanian electricity customers before agreeing to a second link.

“A feasibility study has been done and found a second electricity link is unlikely to be viable in the short to medium term.

“In what is a cynical bid to grab a headline, the Liberals have pre-empted any findings of the Expert Panel Review before it has even had a chance to finalise its

report.

“The panel will report to parliament by the end of March so why are they coming out before this important work has been completed?”

“This is a dangerous sign that they are filling their policy void with ill thought out ideas and without the backing of expert findings.

“It was only the other week that Will Hodgman was going on about how Tasmania should stand on its own two feet and not go running to Canberra.

“Now the Liberals are basing the key plank of their energy policy on a federal funding scheme over which they have no control.”

Further information: Tasmanian Government Communications Unit

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