Australia’s Future Energy Needs on the Table


From 1 July the two Ministerial Councils will merge to form the Standing Council on Energy and Resources.

In her capacity as major shareholder Minister in Power and Water Corporation, Ms Lawrie will meet with State and Territory Energy Ministers to discuss national issues surrounding the energy sector.

Ms Lawrie said the council came at a crucial time in the development of Australia’s electricity industry. "Australia is facing significant challenges in the electricity generation sector, with massive infrastructure investment required."

“A report released in May by the Investment Reference Group (IRG) estimates $240 billion will be required nationally by 2030 to maintain system security and reliability with $4.5 to $6.5 billion required for debt refinancing for generators before the end of 2012."

“The Territory is leading the country in this area, with the Power and Water Corporation midway through the biggest investment in electricity infrastructure in our history, $1.8 billion over 5 years."

“How the Territory is efficiently managing the overhaul of our electricity infrastructure will be of great interest to other states with ageing energy assets.”

Ms Lawrie said the price on carbon and its impact on energy prices would be another key issue for discussion. "The Territory is also leading the nation with our clean, green, gas-fired power stations, which are the envy of the larger jurisdictions, which are in large part reliant on coal,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Territorians already enjoy the second cheapest power in the country, and our lower emissions generation stands to put us at an advantage when a price is put on carbon.

“This is because householders may receive compensation levels outweighing the actual increase in power costs.”

"I will be at the table fighting hard to ensure Territorians are not penalised under a carbon tax for our southern State’s reliance on dirty coal.

"Also I will raising the possibility of the Territory using its gas reserves to potentially provide for the future clean energy needs of the rest of the nation.”

Contact: Patrick Hastwell 0427 017 803