11th June 2005

TASMANIAN LABOR MINISTER SUPPORTS LINK TO NATIONAL GRID

The Tasmanian Labor Minister for Energy, Mr Bryan Green, has put paid to Clare Martin’s claims that connection to the National Grid will drive up prices.

Country Liberal Party Leader Denis Burke said, “Tasmania has commenced a project – BassLink - connecting to the National Grid via a DC power cable laid under Bass Strait.

“Last week Mr. Green, commenting on a Greens’ Party question said:

‘Basslink will give Tasmania access to the considerably cheaper prices for electricity generated at Victoria’s thermal power stations.

‘If we had the Greens’ energy policy with no Basslink we would be locked into being at the mercy of seasonal climatic conditions forever – a seasonal or even a permanent energy deficit will become increasingly likely in the medium term as our expanding economy drives up energy consumption.

‘The Government has always said there is no doubt that with Basslink and gas, energy prices in Tasmania will be lower than what they would have been otherwise.”

“Like the NT, Tasmania is not yet connected to the National Grid but the Labor Minister for Energy can see the benefits of connection.
“It is a pity the Labor Party, in their knee jerk response to our proposal have ruled out cheaper prices for Territorians by connecting to the Grid.

“Like Mr. Green in Tasmania, the Country Liberal Party can see the benefits of accessing cheap thermal energy – last week we could have bought electricity for 2.4 cents/kWh.”