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MEDIA RELEASE
LABOR FAILS TO RENEW
Peter Chandler MLA
Date 1st April 2010

Yesterday’s announcement by the Territory Government of the purchase of two new turbine generators for Channel Island power station flies in the face of the Labor’s commitment to a 20% renewable energy target by 2020.

Shadow Minister for the Environment, Peter Chandler, said the Government should explain how it can justify spending $120million on non-renewable energy generation just 2 months after the release of its climate change policy.

"Infrastructure planning for the energy network is a long term commitment," Mr Chandler said.

"Unfortunately the Labor Government has fallen at the first hurdle when it comes to alternative energy. It has copped out of its obligations to use alternative energies and has shown its gutless when it comes tackling the issues of climate change.

"It has chosen to take a short term approach to the Territory’s energy needs rather than look to a greener, more sustainable future.

"The Territory needs 100MW of renewable energy on the grid within the next decade to meet national obligations.

"Labor’s generation of choice has no renewable off-sets and no environmental benefits whatsoever because it is going back in time and fails to replace old technologies."

Last year the Utilities Commissioner, Andrew Reeves, identified the need for additional generation capacity in the Territory up to 2018.

For Government to rush into this commitment and purchase two generators – one of which is significantly ahead of time – means the forward planning of this Government is a shambles and its environmental credentials are in tatters.

"Instead, Labor should have taken on the challenge of establishing alternate energy solutions," Mr Chandler said.

"A renewable energy source the equivalent of the new generators would have cost upwards of $200million – an easily achievable target if the Government had shown foresight and an ability to plan."

"I question Labor’s commitment to electricity price competition if it hasn’t considered a private investor to deliver this additional capacity and I’m sure a new investor would have a modern view of green, clean technologies.

"What we are left with is a bolt-on expansion instead of a step change in thinking. This decision by government pushes renewable energy in the Territory back 10 years.

"Change is needed, this government can’t deliver."

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