Adam Giles  
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

Labor needs to release energy costings

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Chief Minister Adam Giles says Labor leader Michael Gunner needs to reveal the costings of his 50 per cent renewables policy so they can be independently verified.

“Labor is being deceptive by saying that electricity prices won’t increase under their policy,” Mr Giles said.

“Independent modelling shows retail electricity prices would likely rise more than 400 per cent under Labor’s flawed plan.”

The Chief Minister said Mr Gunner misled listeners on Mix FM this morning when he claimed South Australia’s energy crisis is “not a problem with renewables”.

“The front page of The Australian newspaper today states very clearly that contriving a renewable energy target threatens the reliability of electricity supply and leads to price surges at times of peak demand,” Mr Giles said.

*The Australian, July 21*

“Energy crises in South Australia and Tasmania have shown that unilateral state-based renewable energy measures are distorting the national market and could trigger damaging price surges in eastern states.”

“… increased reliance on renewable energy means other governments could face similar problems to those of South Australia, where power prices spiked to $14,000 per megawatt hour at times this month.”

Mr Giles said Labor’s approach would damage energy security in the eastern states and increase power prices in the Territory.

“Labor wants to close down the onshore gas industry and reduce the production of cheap, low-emissions, clean, gas-fired power,” he said.

“Labor wants to distort the electricity market by introducing unnecessary, contrived targets for renewables.

“The Country Liberals support renewables as part of the Northern Territory’s energy mix, but gas is critical to ensure a cost effective and reliable base load of supply.

“I challenge Michael Gunner to produce his renewable energy costings now so they can be scrutinised and validated by Treasury and industry experts.”
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