

Milestone in the fight against the Illegal Drug Trade

The Turnbull Government has published new figures revealing authorities are succeeding in their efforts to crack down on the illegal methamphetamine trade.

Australia's law enforcement agencies have prevented more than 12 tonnes of methamphetamine, including ice from hitting our streets since 2013.

The biggest haul has been seized in New South Wales, followed by Victoria, Western Australia and Queensland.

The figures confirm the Turnbull Government's targeted investments and initiatives are putting a major dent in the scourge of ice in Australia.

The Coalition Government is tackling the supply of ice through increased international cooperation, enhanced intelligence sharing, better controls of precursor chemicals and greater law enforcement efforts to prevent ice reaching our shores.

The Government has:

- Established Taskforce Blaze – a joint agency taskforce between the Australian Federal Police and the Chinese National Narcotics Control Commission focussed on investigating organised criminal syndicates responsible for the exportation of ice and other illicit drugs to Australia. This is the first ever joint agency taskforce of its kind. Australian and Chinese authorities have intercepted more than 10 tonnes of illicit drugs in the past 18 months.
- Invested \$116 million to establish National Anti-Gangs Squad strike teams. The teams have now been rolled out in NSW, Queensland, Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia with liaison officers in other jurisdictions. The Squads' work has resulted in the seizure of \$5.6 million in cash and illegal drugs – including more than 170 kilograms of ice.
- Invested \$3.6 million from the proceeds of crime to the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission to collect data as part of the first ever National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Report, following a recommendation by the National Ice Taskforce. This report assists our agencies to detect ice hotspots, and pinpoint targets to flush out the crooks responsible for this evil trade and protect the communities they are targeting. The report has confirmed that ice is the most highly consumed illicit drug of those tested in all regions of Australia.
- Established the \$1 million 'Dob in a Dealer' campaign to encourage the public to report information on drug manufacture and distribution in their community.

Proportionally, Australia uses more ice than almost any other country in the

world. Conservative estimates suggest that there are well over 200,000 ice users in Australia.

These figures drive home the message that we cannot simply arrest our way out of this problem – we must tackle the demand for illicit drugs in Australia.

The Coalition Government is investing almost \$300 million to support actions resulting from the National Ice Action Strategy to improve treatment, after care, education, prevention and community engagement.

Conservative estimates suggest that there are well over 200,000 ice users in Australia.

The Coalition Government has taken the lead in taking a national approach to deal with Australia's methamphetamine problem.

Make no mistake; the Coalition Government will use every weapon in our arsenal to break the business models of serious and organised crime gangs that thrive on the evil profits of ice and other drugs.

[Doorstop at SMEC Office with the Hon. John Barilaro MP, Deputy Premier of New South Wales and Mr Paul Broad, Chief Executive of Snowy Hydro](#)

PRIME MINISTER:

Well it's great to be here with John Barilaro the Deputy Premier and of course local member, and of course Paul Broad, Chief Executive of Snowy Hydro and all the team from Snowy and Snowy Mountain Engineering Corporation, SMEC.

This is the engineering firm that designed the Snowy Mountains Scheme and it's great that they're here back in their old premises getting started again. There's 250 people working on Snowy Hydro 2.0 now and when the new scheme is underway, the new pumped hydro scheme is underway, there will be 5,000 people working on building it. So that's a massive investment in jobs and in the renewable energy that Australia needs.

This is the storage which will be the biggest pumped hydro storage system in the Southern Hemisphere and one of the biggest in the world. It will keep the lights on. It will keep Australians' homes warm on cold winter nights, it will keep them cool when everyone has their air-conditioners on in the heat of summer.

This is the investment in the infrastructure, the energy infrastructure that we need.

Now I spoke about the importance of storage at the press club 15 weeks ago, I think. And now, in two weeks, the boring machines will start. They'll start drilling their first bores to get 40 of them, to get the better understanding of the geology along the line of the tunnels and particularly where the big generator chamber is going to be built. This will be 200m long, 50m high and 30m wide. That's a very, very big hole, very deep under the ground. But that is the scale of this investment.

This is building on the vision and the passion, the patriotism of the men and women that built the Snowy Mountains Scheme. You know this plan here, this plan was first drawn up over 30 years ago and what Paul and his team at Snowy Hydro are doing is bringing it up so that it can be built with 21st century technology. The feasibility study, all that work, will be finished by December.

So we're getting on with the job. This is building, securing Australia's energy future.

Our commitment is affordable, reliable energy and meeting our emissions reduction commitments and this scheme does all of that.

This is a massive addition to Australia's electricity security and it will underpin the renewables that we have, this type of storage makes renewables reliable.

I will now ask the Deputy Premier to speak about this. He's very passionate because this is, this is your 'hood, your neighbourhood.

THE HON. JOHN BARILARO MP, DEPUTY PREMIER OF NEW SOUTH WALES:

Absolutely. Well thank you and can I welcome the Prime Minister back to Cooma and of course the CEO of Snowy Hydro Paul Broad and my Parliamentary Secretary Bronnie Taylor.

This is significant today. This is delivering on a vision and a promise by the federal government and the Prime Minister reminding Australians that we can still build infrastructure in this nation.

Building off the back of the Snowy Hydro legacy, the Snowy Scheme, something that we're all proud of in this region and something that we're connected to not just in this region but right across Australia. It doesn't matter where you travel, people know clearly about the Snowy Scheme. Its legacy and Snowy 2.0 today will deliver an energy solution not just for this region, not just for this state but for all Australians. This is using new technology off what is of course infrastructure from decades past.

I congratulate the Prime Minister and the federal government for not only announcing something but now delivering.

The rigs that will be up there will be working in a couple of weeks. This is

the first stage, it means jobs for the regions. In the short-term during the initial work, but if this scheme gets off the ground it's going to be significant jobs for this region. Reminding us of our heyday where my father-in-law who worked on the scheme who said it was some of the toughest work of the day but some of the best time of his life was the parties here in Cooma.

This is great for the region. Thank you Prime Minister for following through. This is significant and it is an energy solution for today.

PRIME MINISTER:

It is, thanks, thank you very much. Paul come and talk to us.

PAUL BROAD, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, SNOWY HYDRO:

Thank you Prime Minister, yeah look at our conference down at T3 we talked about the geology and we talked about the risks and the point of today is to highlight the fact we are going to have 40 drill rigs in the mountains de-risking this project.

The sort of capital spends will change significantly based on what we find down at depth. A cave, a kilometre underground, 200 metres long is enormous and if you look out the back there is a football oval there which is 100 metres long. You double it and getting that down at depth and finding it in the right spot.

While it seems expensive in one sense, the energy we will generate is 100 times less than what the equivalent amount would be in batteries. So get that right. Batteries will cost \$180 million for the equivalent amount of energy.

This is enormous. So we can build storage, storage is the heart of keeping the dam working and keeping the lights on, a crucial part of what we want to do in the decarbonised economy.

We very much appreciate the Prime Minister's support, the Deputy Premier's support, all sides of politics are getting behind it because it is the right thing to do, not just for this part of the world but for the whole electricity market on the eastern sea board.

PRIME MINISTER:

Fantastic, excellent, thank you. Do you have some questions for us?

JOURNALIST:

Now, Mr Turnbull talking about energy policy, would you support a freeze on the Renewable Energy Target or a moratorium on new wind farms as Tony Abbott has said-

PRIME MINISTER:

No. We need more generation and I mean Paul you might want to add to that, but we need more generation and so there is a large amount of renewable

energy committed under the RET that has been where projects have been committed and contracted and we need them to all come on. I mean we can't afford to have a slowdown in the delivery of more generation.

What we also need of course is storage and you know this is a massive battery. This is a battery, if you like, that would be able to run 2,000 megawatts for 175 hours.

So if you're going to do that in terms of batteries, literally, that would be Paul's estimate is it would be \$180 billion which is around 100 times what you'll be spending on this project.

So this is absolutely necessary but we need more generation and so that's good that it's being built.

JOURNALIST:

But Prime Minister this message is undermined when Tony Abbott, the former Prime Minister, is outlining an alternative vision for this Government.

PRIME MINISTER:

Well, let me just remind you that the Renewable Energy Target was recently renegotiated and legislated in 2015 while Mr Abbott was Prime Minister. So the law has been passed, the law has been confirmed, there is certainty in the industry, investments are being made and what is needed to make renewables reliable is obviously storage.

So you see, I'm not into political slogans. I'm into engineering and economics. Storage pumped hydro is being built around the world. Some of our engineers here have just come back from Japan and seen a big pumped hydro project similar to this, which are underway. So this is a global trend and what we're doing is we're getting on with it.

My job as Prime Minister is to deliver affordable and reliable electricity. I mean obviously it is a shared responsibility with the states naturally, but that's our job as leaders, to deliver affordable, reliable electricity and storage is a very big part of it because it makes renewables reliable.

JOURNALIST:

On that Prime Minister it appears that the Coalition has been more divided than it has been in some time and it looks like you are tied to a sinking ship-

PRIME MINISTER:

[Laughs]

JOURNALIST:

How do you change the direction of the party and is it time Christopher Pyne perhaps was moved to the backbench?

PRIME MINISTER:

I'm sorry that the largest pumped hydro storage project in the Southern Hemisphere has lost your interest so quickly. Do we have some more questions on energy? What about Snowy FM? Yeah c'mon we've got to have a local question.

JOURNALIST:

What kind of geotechnical tests have been underway during the feasibility study?

PRIME MINISTER:

Well Paul, you can answer that.

PAUL BROAD, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, SNOWY HYDRO:

What we are doing is taking huge rock samples and a test to look at the different forms of sediment which determine the structures we can build. So the stronger the rock, the less the physical structure you have to put over the top of it.

Remember the old days when they built Snowy they were the leaders in rock bolting, holding the rocks together when you build through tunnels. So the less the rock bolting then the stronger the structure, the lower the cost.

PRIME MINISTER:

The other point is, the other point we were discussing earlier is that obviously with tunnels of this kind, if you can choose the alignment in a way that doesn't need, doesn't require the tunnel to be lined that obviously saves a lot of money so this is what Paul is doing here with these 40 bores that are going to be drilled that will produce core samples. I think you're going down about 900m?

PAUL BROAD, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, SNOWY HYDRO:

Yes, 900m.

PRIME MINISTER:

So that will give them the very clear indication of what the rock is, where the faults lie and what the optimum course is.

JOURNALIST:

[Inaudible]

PRIME MINISTER:

Yeah I am, look I think they're doing a fantastic job. You know we are really lucky that we are standing, you know, on the shoulders of the pioneers of Snowy Hydro who not only built the scheme but also did the designs as you've

seen in there for this pumped hydro project.

They could see then 30 odd years ago how important it was and so what Paul is doing is bringing it up and SMEC and so forth, they're bringing it up to the state where it can be done with 21st century technology and therefore much faster and at much lower cost.

JOURNALIST:

Prime Minister, a moment ago you spoke about leadership. As leader what is your message to your MPs who are fighting at each other's throat and as leader do you intend or would you move Christopher Pyne or consider an early reshuffle?

PRIME MINISTER:

Can I just say to you, and this is a very, I want this to be very, very clear. I understand the media's fascination with personalities. But I'll tell you, the only personalities I'm interested in are 24 million Australians.

My job and my government's job is to deliver for them. Australians are bored, fed up with journalists and politicians talking about themselves. They're not interested in the personalities among politicians.

They want to know what they're doing. So their interest, Australians' interest is in the Snowy Hydro 2.0. Why? Because it's taking on this great nation-building project, proving as John Barilaro said that we can build nation-building infrastructure in this country, we can still do it and we can do it bigger and better than before and that we can do it in a way that will keep the lights on and will keep the heating on in winter and the air conditioner on in summer and it will give us more affordable, more reliable electricity in the future. They want results.

They want to know that school funding is assured and we've delivered that. They want to know that Medicare is guaranteed and we've delivered that.

They want to know that child care is reformed and we've delivered that. They want to know business taxes are coming down so that there is an incentive to invest and employ and you saw in the last jobs figures a reminder I might add, that jobs and growth is not a slogan it is an outcome.

So that's my job and that's my government's job and my message to politicians and journalists alike, in the happy family, in the big house in Canberra is: Don't focus on yourselves, focus on the people who elected us, the 24 million Australians. It is our job to serve. That's my commitment.

JOURNALIST:

While you're here talking about energy and [inaudible], yesterday Tony Abbott put forward his own suggestions on energy and saying that we need a strong conservative voice now more than ever. How is that not a threat to your authority?

PRIME MINISTER:

There is nothing more conservative, there is nothing more conservative than ensuring you have affordable and reliable electricity. The Snowy Mountain scheme is one of the great achievements of our nation and one of the great engineering wonders of the world and it was an achievement that had bipartisan support. Back in those days all those years ago Chifley and Menzies and now I am confident, that I look forward to all sides, all parties, supporting this project.

This is a nation-building project. This will deliver in the first stage 2,000 megawatts of power, that's enough to power over 500,000 homes. It's a massive amount of power. Imagine what that does to all of the renewables? I mean, the challenge that we have in the 21st century energy economy is we've got these renewable technologies, solar and wind being the main ones, they're getting cheaper all the time. There's no question about that but they're variable. The wind doesn't blow all the time. The sun doesn't shine all the time. Hence, you need storage, you need back-up, you need firming power. This is doing it on a massive scale and isn't it great that the plans are there already? And what we've got to do is now optimise it for the 21st Century.

JOURNALIST:

Prime Minister, is it good to be back in the leather jacket?

PRIME MINISTER:

Yep, yes it's good particularly on this cold day.

JOURNALIST:

The latest on the security attack, are Australian businesses vulnerable and is ASIO or would ASIO launch a response attack if this was state-sponsored?

PRIME MINISTER:

Firstly ASIO, our signals intelligence and both offensive and defensive cyber activities is done by another agency, the Australian Signals Directorate. This attack does appear to be very similar to the WannaCry ransomware attack. At this stage we're monitoring it very carefully, gathering as much information as we can. And businesses that, anyone that is affected by it should contact the Australian Cyber Security Centre. We will have more to say about it as more information becomes available.

JOURNALIST:

Mr Turnbull this is not about personalities. Tony Abbott is outlining alternative policy prescriptions for your Government including on Gonski, your victory last week. You need to counsel him.

PRIME MINISTER:

Well thanks for the free advice.

JOURNALIST:

Well he's undermining your message.

PRIME MINISTER:

Thank you for the free advice. Gonski 2.0 was passed by the House of Representatives and all members of the Coalition voted for it. So that's the position. It is now law. So you know something, people talk about the Parliament not being workable and you can't get anything through the Senate? There you are, for decades federal governments have been unable to have a national, consistent, transparent, needs-based model funding for funding schools. There's always been a series of special deals brought to the height of course by Julia Gillard and all the 27 special deals and they were inconsistent and with all of the problems that entailed, also unaffordable.

What we've achieved is a massive reform and we've achieved that, it is a great Coalition reform. It is a great Liberal-National reform and we're proud of it and we voted for it and we carried the day. Labor and the Greens will have to answer why they for purely political reasons didn't support it.

I will have just one more.

JOURNALIST:

Does Christopher Pyne have your support?

PRIME MINISTER:

I have an outstanding ministry. All of my ministers have my support. I've got a great team and we're delivering great results for the Australian people.

Again I just leave you with this thought. You may be interested in personalities I know they fascinate you, they fascinate you. You know what Australians are interested in? Keeping the lights on, being able to pay the electricity bill, being sure that there'll be the infrastructure that delivers the services they need in the years ahead and they want a Prime Minister and a government that gets on and does that, and they have that Prime Minister, they have that government. I'm getting on with the job. The personalities I'm interested in are 24 million Australians, that's my commitment. Thank you all very much.

[ENDS]

[Interview with Jonathon Kendall, ABC](#)

Gippsland

JONATHON KENDALL:

The Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, good afternoon.

PRIME MINISTER:

Yes good afternoon Jonathon, great to be with you.

JONATHON KENDALL:

Now this stoush over regional rail has been going since May. Has your Government buckled to pressure from the Victorian Premier?

PRIME MINISTER:

What we are doing is making this very substantial investment – that with the \$150 million which is the Victorian government's contribution, which of course is about 10 per cent of the total – is about \$1.6 billion going into regional rail right across the state. I think we should be, I think everyone should be delighted. I think that Victorians would be delighted that this substantial investment is being made. Because ultimately as you know, the rail lines are the sinews of the economy. They enable cities like Ballarat, like Bendigo, like Geelong, like Shepparton, to be brought closer to Melbourne and closer to each other. That of course benefits everybody. So I think this is a great days. I think it's great to see governments working closely together.

JONATHON KENDALL:

The state government kind of got you into a corner though. They announced this funding through the assets recycling scheme before you'd actually freed it up for them. Do you feel like they put you in a position that you couldn't say no to?

PRIME MINISTER:

Well you know I'm not really interested in the game of politics and who wins and who loses other than the people of Victoria. They are the winners. This is not asset recycling initiative money. But it is money and this is going to enable all of these communities in regional Victoria to benefit from this massive investment right across the state. So it's something to celebrate. People deserve better public transport no matter where they live. We're delighted to be supporting regional Victoria with this investment.

JONATHON KENDALL:

So infrastructure funding flowing to Victoria from the asset recycling scheme after the sale of the port of Melbourne was initially held back from the Federal Government because Victoria missed the deadline for that funding. Are

you now saying Victoria filed that correctly for the funds? Or that it doesn't matter if states don't get it in on time?

PRIME MINISTER:

I'm not buying into that debate about the asset recycling initiative. The initiative had a time limit. Victoria didn't make it's claim in time. What we're doing, in making the investment, including 400 jobs in the Latrobe Valley, that's what your listeners are interested in. I know Jonathon, again please don't take this amiss but your interest in the political game ... it's something that you may be interested in but I recon your listeners want to know what it means to put \$435 million towards upgrading the Gippsland line, or over half a billion dollars towards upgrading the Ballart line. \$140 million towards improving the track on the North East Line. They want to know if they live in Geelong, about the Waurrn Ponds duplication. They're interested in the actual investments that deliver better transport for them.

JONATHON KENDALL:

Yeah but country Victorians also heard for months that this funding wasn't going to flow through to them. All of a sudden today, there's this big announcement. So why today?

PRIME MINISTER:

Well, because we finalised the decision-making to do so. I mean, just because somebody, a state government says: "We want this money," doesn't mean we accede to it. We've obviously got to go and do all the work, got to analyse it. Having done that, I've made the decision on behalf of the Federal Government to commit these funds and I'm delighted to do so. I'm very committed to improving infrastructure right across Australia and of course this is a good example here in Victoria. So I'm glad you're so pleased about it Jonathon.

JONATHON KENDALL:

Can you tell us –

PRIME MINISTER:

You've got all of your listeners there who are saying this is fantastic. You know what they're all saying Jonathon? They're saying: "Why doesn't Jonathon stop talking about the politics and talk about the investment? Because I want to know what it's going to mean for stations and upgrades and duplications and so forth."

JONATHON KENDALL:

Yeah its interesting Prime Minister that you know exactly what your constituents are thinking. So –

PRIME MINISTER:

Well you know something, I understand that what Australians want is results. I was on another radio station earlier today and we got some talkback and interestingly, they were focussed on results too.

JONATHON KENDALL:

Yeah. Just to clear up, where does that \$1.42 billion come from?

PRIME MINISTER:

Well it comes out of the infrastructure monies we have allocated in our budget process. So yeah, it's all funded. It's all in the budget, all accounted for.

JONATHON KENDALL:

Is it coming through that assets recycling scheme?

PRIME MINISTER:

No it is not. I repeat to you, it is not the asset recycling money. That scheme was closed. The important thing is that it is money and it will buy the upgrades and the investments that the state of Vitoria has identified as it's priorities and we're supporting them in that. This is a great opportunity. The total package into regional rail will be \$1.57 billion. Including Victoria's \$150 million, we're also providing \$30 million towards finalising a business plan to get to a point where you can make a decision to invest in rail line, a rail link to Melbourne airport. We're pleased that the Victorian Premier has confirmed that the \$70 million they earned in interest from the Commonwealth \$1.5 billion prepayment for the East West Link, will be used to upgrade suburban roads and congestion hotspots in Melbourne.

So in other words, this money is part of the \$75 billion infrastructure investment over the next decade that we announced in the budget in May.

JONATHON KENDALL:

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull is with us today on ABC Local Radio. We're talking regional rail and this \$1.4 billion upgrade to the regional rail. You made the announcement today in Box Hill which is not in regional Victoria. Why did you do that?

PRIME MINISTER:

Because I was in Box Hill and I had the opportunity to do it with Darren Chester.

JONATHON KENDALL:

Would it make more sense to come to regional Victoria to do that?

PRIME MINISTER:

Again Jonathon, look. I know you're very interested in the location of the announcement. I reckon you've got a few listeners who would be more interested to know that there are new platforms going to be built in Traralgon and Morwell and that there will be duplication done around Bunyip, Longwarry and Moe. That it will enable people who work in, who live in regional Victoria, to better connect to Melbourne and vice versa.

Victoria has got a great advantage I believe, of having so many strong regional centres relatively close to Melbourne. Not that with better rail infrastructure, you can tie them all into each other. That of course provides more options in terms of housing. It's good for housing affordability, it's good for business. It really enables the state to use the sinews as I call them, the sinews of the 21st century. These strong rail lines with the additional investment will add enormously to the productivity, to the opportunities in the state. That's why it should be welcomed.

JONATHON KENDALL:

Prime Minister I wanted to ask you about very fast rail. Do you think we will see very fast, a very fast train connecting Melbourne and Sydney in your lifetime?

PRIME MINISTER:

Yes, well it depends what you mean, but yes. I think we will. Of course I'm anticipating to live to a very ripe old age Jonathon, I want you to know that. I'm a very young 62, looking forward to many years of productive life and of course many years of productive life as Prime Minister, I might add.

But yes I think you'll see more rail and faster rail in the years to come. I mean the challenge has always been paying for it of course. One of the differences of my Government to predecessors is been that we are very focussed on ensuring that wherever we can, we can invest in transport infrastructure. Of course we're not doing it in a sense of a sense having an ownership stake in it, this is a grant. But also that we can ensure that rail infrastructure in particular, is able to take advantage of some of the value that is created in the real estate next to the rail line and next to the stations. So this a longer-term discussion but it is very important. Rail is critically important both in terms of linking regions, but also of course within cities, big cities like Melbourne and Sydney.

JONATHON KENDALL:

Energy is also critically important. I wanted to ask you about that as well. Tony Abbott today addressed the Institute for Public Affairs outlining a policy manifesto of sorts. One of his policy ideas was for the government to go it alone and build a coal-fired power station. I'm broadcasting today from Gippsland. Will we see a new coal fired power plant built here in Gippsland?

PRIME MINISTER:

Well you may, you know, time will tell. I think that the idea that coal is finished is wrong. I'm very strongly of the view that our approach to energy

should be technology agnostic. It should be 'all of the above'. Coal will be part of Australia's energy mix and indeed the world's energy mix for a very long time.

So that's why you've often heard me say I'm sure that our energy policy is informed by economics and engineering not by ideology, partisanship or glib one-liners. You've got to do the work, you've got to do the hard work and analyse what the requirements are. So for example in terms of baseload power we're asking the Australian Energy Market Operator, AEMO, to identify where the baseload gaps are going to emerge over the next five, ten years – Because we know there are some more coal fired power stations that are you know expected or scheduled to close – and how we should go about ensuring that that baseload or continuous despatchable power is filled. So that could for example involve a reverse auction. It could involve a level of government support. But we'll obviously await the advice of AEMO. The issue, these energy challenges, require very careful work.

I've take some very decisive actions already particularly with respect to gas. As you know we are in the position where we've had to limit gas exports from the east coast and ensure that there are adequate gas supplies available for domestic markets. We're also taking steps to limit the ability, restrict the ability of energy companies to appeal decisions from the Australian Energy Regulator on what prices they can charge the transmission and distribution assets.

JONATHON KENDALL:

Prime Minister I know you're short on time, so I'll make this the last question: is your leadership under threat from Tony Abbott?

PRIME MINISTER.

Absolutely not.

JONATHON KENDALL:

Yeah. It's a fairly extraordinary situation for the former prime minister to outline an alternative policy manifesto with –

PRIME MINISTER:

Hang on, actually backbenchers are entitled to express their views on various issue all the time. So you know, they're entitled to –

JONATHON KENDALL:

Slightly different, expressing their views, to developing a policy manifesto though.

PRIME MINISTER:

Well you're talking about a speech with a number of policy suggestions. I mean they're not original, they're not the first time he's expressed them and

he's not the only person to express them. My approach to policy contributions from my colleagues, backbench colleagues in particular to whom we obviously pay great respect as a collegiate and consultative Government, is all contributions great fully received. They're all taken into account. But a Government has to move deliberately and wisely. That means we make our decisions on energy policy not based on politics, but based on economics and engineering. Politics and partisanship and ideology have not been of great assistance in ensuring we have affordable and reliable energy. I'm determined to do everything I can for my Government to ensure that Australians have affordable, reliable energy and of course, that we meet our commitments to cut emissions in accordance with the Paris Agreement.

JONATHON KENDALL:

A very interesting day, thank you so much for your time.

PRIME MINISTER:

Thank you so much Jonathon.

[ENDS]