

# Doorstop with the Hon. Josh Frydenberg MP, Minister for the Environment and Energy and Senator the Hon. Zed Seselja, Assistant Minister for Social Services and Multicultural Affairs

**SENATOR THE HON. ZED SESELJA, SENATOR FOR ACT AND ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS:**

Welcome to Hume in the ACT – it's great to be here.

And thank you to Rob and Peter and Graham and all of the team here at Viridian here in the south of Canberra for the tour. Great to be seeing really thriving business here doing some great stuff.

Great to have our Prime Minister here, great to have the Minister for Energy, Josh Frydenberg who is doing such a sensational job. I'll hand over to the PM.

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Thank you very much Zed, it is good to be here.

Now, we're here at Viridian Glass, which is part of CSR and Rob Sindel is the Managing Director of CSR and Peter Moeller is in charge of the glass business, and Graeme here has hosted us here at this plant, all of us here.

Energy is all about jobs.

The National Energy Guarantee drives down wholesale energy costs, as the Energy Security Board has told us.

It delivers reliable power and it ensures we meet our international obligations.

So, affordability, reliability, responsibility.

Now, Rob, just tell us how big CSR's energy bill is.

**MR ROB SINDEL – MANAGING DIRECTOR & CEO, CSR:**

It's about \$110 million a year. So, \$60 million of that goes to gas-

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Come a little bit closer.

**MR ROB SINDEL:**

\$60 million of that's gas and about \$50 million of that is electricity.

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Right. Now, as you know, we've taken some strong action on gas recently to ensure there's enough gas for the east coast market. What have you seen that's – what has that done to the gas suppliers and gas market?

**MR ROB SINDEL:**

So we're a big gas user, obviously, in our glass business and bricks business.

We've had to enter the wholesale market for gas to ensure we have supply. So we've sort of cut the retailers out of that in certain parts of our business.

What we've also seen is the spot price come down, which is very beneficial.

The work you and the Energy Minister have done to guarantee the supply has meant spot prices have come down, and that's great for us as an organisation.

It's great for the people, actually. 4,200 employees. Our objective every day is to keep those people in work.

**PRIME MINISTER:**

That's our objective too. That's what the National Energy Guarantee is about. That's what all of our energy policies are about, that Josh and I have been developing and rolling out.

It's about ensuring Australians have affordable and reliable power – vitally important for households and families, but vitally important for jobs. These jobs depend on affordable energy.

Peter, how important is energy, the cost of energy, to making glass? Just talk a bit about that, and the jobs that you support at Dandenong where we were in February, and then at all of your plants around the country.

**MR PETER MOELLER – EXECUTIVE GENERAL MANAGER, CSR:**

Energy is probably the most important cost factor in the manufacturing of raw glass.

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Yep. Come a little bit closer. Energy is the most important factor?

**MR PETER MOELLER:**

Energy is the most important factor in the production of raw glass. It represents about 16 to 17 per cent of the total cost and we're paying about \$20 million of energy costs totally – a big majority of that is paid in Dandenong, predominantly for gas.

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Okay, so bringing that spot price of gas down, as we've seen, as Rob was saying – that improves your business and it makes the jobs more secure?

**MR PETER MOELLER:**

It's very important to us because we are in a global competition, and we need to be able to be competitive in that market.

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Yep.

**MR PETER MOELLER – EXECUTIVE GENERAL MANAGER, CSR:**

And with the increase in energy costs, if that continues and all of a sudden we have to put a question mark on the sustainability of our competitiveness. So that's very important.

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Right. Yeah. Peter and Rob, tell me – the Energy Security Board have said to us – they are the experts in this area, and we're relying on their advice. They've said to us that the National Energy Guarantee that they've recommended, that policy they've recommended – will provide greater investment certainty and will result – they estimate – in wholesale energy costs coming down by 20 to 25 per cent over the period through to 2030.

What's that going to mean for your businesses here, CSR overall, and of course for the glass business?

**MR ROB SINDEL:**

I think the most important part for us, and what we liked about the National Energy Guarantee, was the reliability and certainty. Because the rule number one is, if this factory or any of our factories don't have power, they don't operate.

You can't have people standing around. So reliability – we like the fact that you've put reliability and also the affordability at the top of the list.

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Yep.

**MR ROB SINDEL:**

To continue to subsidise one source of energy over the other, we don't think is sensible because we want secure, affordable power. That's what we liked about the plan.

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Well thank you very much. And thank you for hosting us here.

So, Josh, we're now at the stage with the National Energy Guarantee where we've had it recommended to us by the Energy Security Board – they are the five most experienced people in the electricity and energy business.

So we've got that advice. We're adopting it. We're taking it on to COAG. So the next step now is to present it to the – to persuade COAG to go ahead with it.

How important do you think it is for the other jurisdictions, the states and the territories, to support this?

Just talk to us about the critical importance of getting energy policies right, and delivering the affordability and the reliability that Rob and Peter and Graeme need to secure the jobs here and around Australia.

**THE HON. JOSH FRYDENBERG MP, MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY:**

Thanks, PM, and thanks to Zed for having us here, and thank you to Viridian Energy.

The Turnbull Government has created 371,500 jobs in the last 12 months. And we're hungry for more.

And as the Prime Minister says, lowering power bills is the key to job creation.

Now Dr Finkel made it very clear that we needed a national approach to emissions reduction and to energy policy. All the states within COAG signed on to that recommendation, now here's their chance – with the National Energy Guarantee, a recommendation by the experts – to live up to that commitment that they have made.

It's a credible, workable, pro-market policy that delivers lower prices and a more reliable system. No subsidies, no taxes, no trading schemes.

What we've heard from the company here, just as we've heard from manufacturers in Australia – the BCA, the Ai Group, ACCI, BlueScope, BHP, Grocers Association, Irrigators Council – the list goes on – have overwhelmingly endorsed the National Energy Guarantee as the way to take Australia forward, with a comprehensive policy that focuses on reducing prices, creating a more reliable system, and staying true to our international commitments.

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Great. Thanks very much, Josh. Thank you.

**JOURNALIST:**

Prime Minister, as you say the most important thing is getting states on board. So have you been in conversation with the state premiers and what are

they telling you?

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Well, I've had conversations with several of them. I know Josh has been talking to the energy ministers. But I think the next step is the energy ministers' meeting in November?

**MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY:**

Late November.

**PRIME MINISTER.**

Late November, and obviously there is modelling underway now, as you know, so that'll be – that's the next step.

**JOURNALIST:**

Are they receptive, PM?

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Well, the conversations I've had, they've been very receptive. But there's often, as you know, a mismatch between the private conversations and the public rhetoric. But there it is.

**JOURNALIST:**

Prime Minister, just on another issue, you're due to meet the-

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Sorry, hang on, go to you first.

**JOURNALIST:**

Thank you. You're due to meet the Israeli Prime Minister next week. What will you say to him about the stalled extradition of the Melbourne school principal Malka Leifer on alleged sex offences?

**PRIME MINISTER:**

What I'll say is that justice demands that she be brought back to Australia to answer the charges.

**JOURNALIST:**

Prime Minister, why has the government been so apprehensive about joining China's Belt and Road Initiative? Are national security concerns-

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Can we just focus on energy for a little bit more just before we move on to

foreign policy?

**JOURNALIST:**

This links in with energy – there's \$300,000 being spent every minute on welfare. Would you like to see the welfare bill come down? How can we make that happen?

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Well, what we need to do is ensure that the welfare dollar is spent effectively in a way that – spent on those who need it, spent most effectively. Obviously, particularly with working-age benefits, the object is, wherever possible, to ensure that people are able to return to work.

The best form of welfare, as we all know, is a job and so that's why we have so many programs that are designed to ensure that people are able to return to the workforce because that clearly is the best for them and for their families.

But, you know, Australia, as the AIHW report observed last week, as Zed was reminding us earlier, Australia has by world standards a very targeted welfare system. It's means-tested, as you know and that's one of the reasons why it is more effective than in many other places.

**JOURNALIST:**

Deloitte says that we could be at a turning point and see wage growth very soon. Is that welcome news for you?

**PRIME MINISTER:**

I am thrilled to see it, delighted to see it. Look, as the Treasurer has said, there are better days ahead.

We've seen very strong jobs growth – 371,000 in the last year. 85 per cent of them full-time. "Jobs and growth" is not just a slogan – it's an outcome.

What we are now looking to see is growth in wages because they have been, wages growth has been slow by historic standards. So we want to see wages growth and I'm very pleased to see Chris Richardson's forecast that we're going to see strong wages growth. That's good news.

**JOURNALIST:**

PM, will the NBN ever deliver a commercial rate of return when it now has to compete against 4G and 5G?

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Well, look, the NBN was a calamitous train wreck of a project when we came into government in 2013. Billions and billions of dollars were wasted by Labor, and there was no way to get them back, okay?

So, as Communications Minister, I had to play the hand of cards I was dealt – as I often used to say, you know, in the words of the Irish barman when asked for directions to Dublin: “If I were you, I wouldn’t be starting from here.” No one would have wanted to start from where Labor left us.

So, we have done the best we can getting that project on track.

Now, it is on track in terms of the rollout. They are activating many more households and premises a fortnight than Labor did in six years, but there have been real problems – both with the installation experience and with people not getting the speeds that they believe they’re paying for, or that they have paid for.

We are very, very focused on improving on both of those counts.

Of course, as the network expands, you will always get more complaints because if you’ve got 3 million customers, you’ll get more than if you’ve got 50,000. Plainly. But one complaint is one complaint too many.

So I am determined to ensure that we address those issues, and that people get the speeds they have paid for.

**JOURNALIST:**

It was supposed to be a commercial enterprise, so can you ever see that money being returned to the taxpayer?

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Well, Chris, I think there’s a reasonable question mark over that.

I mean, when it was started under Rudd, you may remember, Kevin Rudd said this was going to be fantastically commercial and that the public would be lining up to invest in it. Well, that’s nonsense.

If we had gone down Labor’s route of fibre to the premises, it would have taken, say, another eight years to complete and another \$30 billion.

So if you think the commercial criteria are challenging now, imagine what they would be if you loaded another \$30 billion of cost onto it.

Now, it is challenging. At the moment, it is estimated to deliver a return of around 3 per cent, which is not – it is enough to keep it on the government’s balance sheet, as a government asset, but it certainly is not a commercial return that the stock market would expect.

**JOURNALIST:**

It was supposed to be 6 per cent.

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Well, there’s no way it would reach that.

Look, it is, again, we were dealt a very, very bad hand of cards by Labor and we are doing the best with it to get it rolled out. But I have to say this is the fastest rollout of any telecom service in the country's history.

**JOURNALIST:**

One final point on this because it is the issue-du-jour-

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Sure. The only risk you have is that I will give you more detail than you want.

**JOURNALIST:**

Too much detail is never enough on this, Prime Minister. Could you tell us, in hindsight, was the project a mistake?

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Yes.

**JOURNALIST:**

Has it been a massive waste of money?

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Well, it was a mistake to go about it the way they did – setting up a new government company to do it was a big mistake. If you want to look at a country that did this exercise much better, it's New Zealand, and what they did there was they basically ensured the incumbent telco, the Telstra equivalent, split its network operations away from retail operations and then that network company which is called Chorus became, in effect, the NBN.

The virtue of that was you had a business that knew what it was doing, that was up and running, that had 100 years of experience getting on with the job and the Kiwis have done this at much less cost.

So the way Labor set it up was hugely expensive and there are many billions of dollars wasted – and I've said this many times, it's a fact of life – that we can't recover.

So having been left in a bad place by Labor, what we are doing is ensuring that we deliver it as quickly and cost effectively as possible but I have to say to you, again, one complaint is one complaint too many.

I know that a lot of people are not getting the deals they paid their retail service providers for. I have been talking to the chief executive of NBN about it frequently and talking to the ACCC about it. I was talking to Rod Sims on the way here. As you know, ACCC has got a whole exercise and inquiry into this and they will be making those retailers be very upfront about what speeds they're offering, how that compares, you know, are they able to



deliver them and they'll be ensuring that everything is being monitored.

There will be 4,000 monitors put in place by the ACCC around the country to monitor broadband performance.

I am relentless in my efforts, as is the minister, in ensuring people get the best experience, the best deal from the NBN possible. The management is doing a good job too but again, it was not a great hand of cards to be dealt but that's alright, we'll play them the best we can.

**JOURNALIST:**

Prime Minister, could it be good for Australian jobs to sign up to the Belt and Road Initiative? Are national security concerns there legitimate?

**PRIME MINISTER:**

The reality is we have a very constructive investment relationship with China. There is massive Chinese investment in Australia and considerable Australian investment in China too, I might add.

In terms of Belt and Road, it is an initiative, an objective, an agenda is possibly the best way to describe it of the Chinese Government and we obviously welcome Chinese investment that meets our foreign investment guidelines. But we prefer to focus on specifics, on specific projects and investments.

So there's, you know, rather than engaging in generalities – and perhaps I'm betraying my past business experience – I prefer to focus on specifics and there is no shortage of Chinese investment and opportunities for that in Australia and indeed of course Australian firms invest in China too.

**JOURNALIST:**

Can you guarantee that mobile data users won't be penalised in any way to pay for the NBN?

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Well, there is no plan to impose any restriction on, you know, mobile data.

Can I just make a point about mobile data? The latest figures I have show that the average use of data on a mobile plan is around 15 gigs a month. For NBN customers, fixed line or indeed wireless, fixed wireless customers, it's around 150. So, you can see the advantage of the fixed-line network is that it provides enormous capacity.

What Bill Morrow is talking about in terms of wireless is more enhanced antenna services, you know, in large multi-dwelling buildings, you know, apartment buildings.

Look, it is a competitive environment, but I just want to repeat we are doing everything we can to ensure the NBN delivers a great service. We're doing

everything we can to ensure that the telcos, the retail service providers, deliver to their customers what they promise.

And one complaint is one complaint too many. So we are not going to be satisfied with anything other than 100%. I know it can't be achieved, but that's the goal.

Thanks a lot.

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## Investing in children's health

The Turnbull Government will invest \$13 million in a major longitudinal children's health study.

This is a decade-long investment in our children's future. It will improve and possibly save lives.

The ORIGINS Project will be conducted by the Telethon Kids Institute and Joondalup Health Campus. It is an exciting, original and truly far-sighted study, following a cohort of 10,000 from pregnancy, to birth, to five years of age.

There is increasing evidence that events and experiences occurring very early in a child's life can have significant long-term effects on health and well-being.

The ORIGINS project will collect a comprehensive set of data in a way never done before.

It will provide health checks to participating children, identify risk factors and seek to identify ways to prevent or lessen future health problems.

One of Australia's largest philanthropic organisations, the Paul Ramsay Foundation, will contribute \$13m over ten years, which – through Telethon – the Government will match dollar for dollar over the same period.

ORIGINS is an outstanding example of how private philanthropy and the Federal Government can work together to help Australia's children and ensure they have the healthiest possible start to their lives.

Telethon is all about ensuring a better life for our children now and in the future.

This contribution towards the ORIGINS project comes on top of the annual Commonwealth Government contribution to Telethon, which this year will be \$2

million.

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## Visit and tour of the Ixom Laverton Site with the Minister for the Environment and Energy, the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP

### **PRIME MINISTER:**

Well, thank you very much for the tour of the Ixom plant here and thank you to Adam Voigt very much for refreshing us on our chemistry.

This is a great example of an Australian company employing 640 people in its Australian operations- 1200 worldwide is that right? Just over 1,000 worldwide.

Now, right here at this plant which makes the chemicals that are vital for industry, for mining, for keeping our water safe to drink – these are vital essential chemicals made here – the biggest overhead is energy and electricity costs have trebled in recent years. That is putting enormous pressure on this business.

Now we've had a fantastic record in job creation over the last 12 months; 371,500 jobs created, 85 per cent of them full time, around Australia. It's been the longest continuous run of monthly job increases in 23 years.

But we need to ensure we protect Australian industry, jobs in Australian industry. The biggest threat to the jobs here and in so many other industrial plants and manufacturing businesses around Australia is Labor's reckless policy on energy. It is all about ideology, it's got nothing to do with engineering and economics.

We need to have a clear-eyed, hard-headed business plan for energy and that's what we have from the Energy Security Board, presented by the experts to us, the people that know more about the industry than anyone else.

Again we call on Labor to get off their reckless job-destroying agenda to push renewables into the market without any regard to the consequences. Get on-board with the right plan, recommended by the smartest people in the room.

Now, the Energy Security Board have said that their plan, the national electricity guarantee, would be expected to reduce wholesale generation costs by 20 to 25 per cent. That will have, they've said, an impact of between \$110 and \$115 on the average household electricity bill. But you can imagine that

Dean buys a lot more electricity than the average household. In fact this plant alone Dean was saying, consumes as much electricity as Geelong. Is that right? The whole city of Geelong.

There are hundreds of jobs that depend on the energy here.

Now, if wholesale generation costs are reduced by 20 to 25 per cent, as the Energy Security Board has forecast, by adopting the plan they've recommended, that will save this business millions of dollars a year. That means they've got greater security for the workers here and they've got the money to continue to invest in this plant and grow this plant and have more opportunities for the chemists, the engineers, the scientists, the tradesmen. All of the workers here depend upon affordable and reliable energy. That's what our plan will deliver.

So this is all about jobs. This is all about jobs, protecting Australian jobs, affordable, reliable energy and meeting our environmental commitments under the Paris Agreement. That is what we need to achieve to secure the jobs here and at hundreds of other manufacturing and industrial plants around Australia.

So, Dean thank you very much, and thank Adam for the really great tour. I can see his passion and all your team. You've got the passion, you've got the experience and talent, you've got the customers. But what you need is affordable and reliable energy and that's what our National Energy Guarantee will deliver.

So I'll ask Josh to say a few words and Dean you may be able to add a little bit after we've spoken. Thanks Josh.

**MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY, THE HON. JOSH FRYDENBERG MP:**

Thank you, Prime Minister, and thank you Dean for the tour of this plant.

Lower energy prices mean more jobs. More jobs for the fitter and turners. More jobs for the scientists, for the engineers, for the electricians that are employed in this plant and in thousands of manufacturing plants right across our country.

So we call upon our political opponents to accept the National Energy Guarantee as recommended by the Energy Security Board.

It is a credible, workable, pro-market policy that delivers lower power prices and a more reliable system.

No more subsidies, no taxes, no emission trading schemes, but a policy that is designed to build on the existing market mechanisms to produce lower power bills for millions of Australian families and for major manufacturers like this plant, which produces hundreds of millions of dollars for export and domestic use in vital chemical products.

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Thanks Josh. Dean, do you want to say a bit more about the importance of energy in your business?

**MR DEAN DRAPER – MANAGING DIRECTOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, IXOM:**

Certainly. First, I'd like to thank you both for joining us today. I think the colleagues really enjoyed your engagement and your questions.

Clearly, this is one of our most important sites in Australia. It produces products which is used in the mining industry for food and beverage and plays a really important role in securing water supply.

When I come to work every day, I'm really focused on the competitiveness of our production assets and a key part of that, is our energy costs and those energy costs have increased threefold over the past two years.

We need to address this, because that enables us to then consider future investment, protect jobs and look for new opportunities to grow this business.

So we welcome the policy which supports and addresses those issues, so we're in a better position as a company to be more competitive and to support further job growth

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Thank you very much Dean, thank you. So, do we have some questions?

**JOURNALIST:**

Mr Turnbull Labor regards your energy guarantee as cleverly disguised carbon trading scheme. If that's what they need to support it, I mean would you support that interpretation?

**PRIME MINISTER:**

We certainly encourage the Labor Party to support it, in particular the state and territory governments.

But as John Pierce, the Chairman of the Energy Markets Commission said yesterday, it is not a carbon trading scheme, it's not a renewable energy target. It's a market-based mechanism that allows the retailers to compete, to have their portfolio of generation assets as they choose, consistent with meeting two requirements. One, to ensure there's enough reliable power to keep the lights on – always vitally important, particularly for a plant like this – and also that we meet our Paris commitments.

So I think John Pierce and others have dealt with this, but the important thing is that Labor delivers the bipartisanship they've talked about so much.

This is not a plan written by Josh and me. This has been presented to government by the Energy Security Board and you've seen them all. These are the experts in the field, this is the Energy Market Operator, the rule maker,

the regulator an independent chairman in Kerry Schott with vast experience in this field.

They've presented this plant to us and they've said, this will deliver lower wholesale generation costs. It will mean millions of dollars a year in savings to this business and it will mean savings to every consumer of electricity around Australia.

**JOURNALIST:**

What happens if the state and territory government don't support this energy plan?

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Well we're focused on ensuring that they do. The state and territories you know are part of COAG, of course, and they appointed these people.

The Energy Security Board was recommended by Alan Finkel, and then appointed by COAG. Josh was part of that but so were the energy ministers from the states and territories. So they chose these experts and they set up this board for the purpose of seeking advice and that's what we've done.

Now I think what Labor should do, is rather than having pot-shots and reeling from one sort of political line after another, they've been all over the shop this week, what they should be doing is saying to the Energy Security Board, "thank you very much, that is a great recommendation it's a real breakthrough. Let's sit down and go through the detail and make sure we implement it".

**JOURNALIST:**

Labor says that the NEG will mean renewables have a cap of 38 per cent but isn't it true that there is no cap, so if solar and batteries get cheaper it's conceivable and permissible for the renewable mix to hit 50 per cent by 2030?

**PRIME MINISTER:**

It's going to be up to the market to determine, there's a level playing field.

What the constraints are, the rules are, that there's got to be an adequate percentage of reliable energy, of dispatchable battle energy – baseload power if you like – energy that can be delivered on demand.

You can see what happens when you lack that in South Australia. You get like blackouts, you get enormous volatility, much higher prices. These are all factors that have worked into putting up the price of Dean's electricity here. The electricity system has been made less reliable and more expensive by misguided, ill-considered Labor Party policies, to push wind and solar into the market without putting in the backup to support it.

Now let me just reassure everybody, we are absolutely committed to every technology playing its role and as far as renewables are concerned what makes renewables reliable is storage. We are in the process of building the largest renewable project ever built in Australia since Snowy Hydro One – its Snowy Hydro 2.0. It's going to be the biggest battery if you like, in the southern hemisphere.

That is a mark of our commitment. But we understand the importance of doing this on the basis of economics and engineering. Remember what Audrey Zibelman, the Chief Executive of the Energy Market Operator said yesterday, talking about grid reliability. She said "you have to respect that physics. At the end of the day, you need dispatchable power to keep the network running and to keep the lights on".

Now that can come from coal, that can come from gas, it can come from hydro. But whatever way you look at it's got to be there. So all of these technologies will compete and if reliable renewables are cheaper than coal and gas there will be more reliable renewables. If they're not, there won't be.

The important thing is we're getting out of the subsidy business. We're getting out of the picking winners business. The only winners we want to have here are Australian families and Australian jobs. That means having the most affordable and the most reliable energy.

So no more subsidies, a level playing field, have the right level of reliable power, the right level of emissions abatement and then let the market and technologies competing sort it out.

**JOURNALIST:**

Do you risk I guess hindering investment in renewables by some of the strong statements that have been made?

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Absolutely not.

Can I just say to you that investment in renewables is increasing all the time, but the importance is to make sure that there is that reliability.

If you look at what the Federal Government is doing through Arena and the CEFC, we are providing support to a lot of really innovative renewable projects. In fact, going to South Australia, which you know has had a dreadful problem with unreliable electricity, because the State Government allowed a huge amount of wind to go in.

I mean, Josh made the point the other day that recently in a 3-day period, just three days, wind was producing nearly 100 per cent of the state's demand one day and 3 per cent the next. You can imagine what that does to costs, to prices, to reliability, to volatility. So you need storage.

One of the projects we've provided support for, for a feasibility study, and

it's looking very good, is pumped hydro projects on the Spencer Gulf. It is smaller than Snowy 2, but of course it is in South Australia, its an example of innovation that we're supporting.

So renewables, reliable renewables, are critically important.

Now jus before we wrap up, I just want to say something about a really historic day today, the end of Holden making cars in Australia.

Now it's a very sad day for the workers there and everyone, every Australian feels for them and of course for the end of an era. But the important thing is that while there may be an end to making cars, there's not an end to employment. There's not an end to manufacturing.

84 per cent of the workers affected by the closure have either – are either transitioning to a new job or a full-time study or are retiring.

What you can see is with the strong economic leadership we're delivering, strong jobs growth. So there are other businesses setting up, employing people, providing new jobs and new opportunities.

And of course in South Australia in particular our massive investment in naval shipbuilding is going to deliver thousands of jobs, manufacturing jobs, at the very cutting edge of technology in every respect.

But you know, what is the biggest threat to jobs and industry? Dean's testament to that here today. It is unaffordable electricity and gas.

Affordable, reliable energy is the foundation upon which jobs are built.

And if we want to maintain a strong manufacturing base in Australia, if we want to have more businesses, more innovation, more investment, we've got to have affordable energy and that's what our National Energy Guarantee will deliver.

Thank you very much.

**[ENDS]**