



Sid Sidebottom MP ... for a fair go in Braddon

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BRIGHT RENEWABLES FUTURE FOR TASMANIA

THE success of the Rudd Government's Renewable Energy Target legislation today paves the way for hundreds of millions of dollars investment in Tasmania says the Federal Member for Braddon Sid Sidebottom MP.

Mr Sidebottom said it? the move would also help to reverse the damage done to Australia's renewables sector in 2004 when the former Howard Government pulled the rug out from under the sector.

"I am excited by the potential for investment in renewable energy in Tasmania, and was happy to speak in support of this bill in Parliament this week," Mr Sidebottom said.

"I'm already aware of more than \$1 billion worth of investment in wind and wave technology planned for my own part of Tasmania, and I'm sure there will be more to come.

"But the industry and its investors needed the certainty contained within this legislation to be able to look to the future."

Mr Sidebottom said it was very rich for Liberal Senator Guy Barnett to be critical of the Rudd Government for delaying projects like Musselroe in the North-East, when it was a Government that he was a member of which put a permanent stay on this and other major projects as well as seeing the eventual demise of VESTAS in NW Tasmania.

"I shouldn't need to remind Senator Barnett that another significant project the Heemskirk wind farm on the West Coast was shelved after John Howard rejected the recommendations of his own committee to extend the Mandatory Renewable Energy Target," Mr Sidebottom said.

"This was set to be a major boost to the economy of the West Coast, but was sacrificed as the Coalition struggled to come to terms with the threat to climate change, something they are still at loggerheads over.

"Yet a little over 18 months after taking Government, Labor has delivered a scheme which will give the renewable energy sector the long-term security to begin re-investing and to try and gain back the ground lost in the last five years."

Mr Sidebottom said Tasmania had considerable expertise and some very talented people in the field of renewable energy, and it would be great to see employment start to grow in the sector again.

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