



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

Media Release – June 6, 2010

SUPPORT FOR RENEWABLES MUST BE GUARANTEED

Tasmania's Liberal Senators must guarantee their support for Renewable Energy Target Amendment Bills before the Federal Parliament or risk jobs and investment across the State says the Federal Member for Braddon, Sid Sidebottom MP.

Mr Sidebottom said the need for support had been highlighted again this week by Hydro Tasmania, which wrote to him calling for support.

"I have always been a strong supporter of Renewable Energy, and recently spoke strongly in support of the current legislation which is vital to the future of the North-West, and Tasmania," Mr Sidebottom said.

"I would hate to think that the Tasmania's Liberal Senators would be bloody-minded enough to do anything to hold this up, particularly after John Howard and his local MPs knocked the legs out from under the industry in 2004."

Mr Sidebottom said a letter he received this week from Hydro Tasmania acting CEO Andrew Catchpole emphasised the need for the legislation, saying it would underpin Hydro Tasmania's investments in a range of projects including the modernisation of existing hydro power stations and new wind developments in a joint venture with Roaring 40s.

"The RET is essential to ensuring future energy security, achieving immediate greenhouse gas abatement and delivering some \$20 billion of investment and more over 20,000 jobs throughout rural and regional Australia," the letter says.

Mr Sidebottom said the legislation is particularly important to Tasmania's regions.

"In my area alone I'm aware of one project potentially worth \$1 billion, which would mean an injection of \$300 million into the local economy," he said.

"Surely we can't let anything stand in the way of such important investment in our regional economies."

For more information or to arrange an interview call: Luke Sayer on 0458 311 355