

MEDIA RELEASE

Energy – Here we go again!

Community Energy for Goulburn has responded to the latest change in the Federal Government's energy policy with concerns about what it will actually achieve.

"There have been so many changes in energy policy over the last 10 years that it is impossible to predict what will happen from year to year," said Ed Suttle, President of CE4G.

"Each change in policy creates uncertainty in the market and makes it extremely difficult to plan a long term business case for any new energy projects, especially small scale ones like the Goulburn community-owned solar farm," he said.

The newest version announced by the government and backed by local MP Angus Taylor, goes against the advice of its own appointed expert. The chief scientist, Alan Finkel, who was appointed by this government, advised on a completely different approach, specifically regarding a Renewable Energy Target, that even the Prime Minister supported not long ago.

"It appears Malcolm Turnbull has to keep on coming up with alternative solutions to keep some of the climate deniers in his party happy or there'll be yet another change of leadership," said Mr Suttle.

"I think we all know that, deep down, Mr. Turnbull is probably very uncomfortable with this new policy. It certainly looks like yet another decision made on the run," he said

But Angus Taylor says that this new initiative will bring the prices down and make the energy supply more reliable.

"But who really knows that will happen? We have very few details. The whole scheme relies on the states backing the plan, and already some states are saying they are very doubtful," said Mr Suttle.

"Mr Taylor claims that it levels the playing field by cancelling subsidies for renewables. But what about the massive subsidies fossil fuels receive, or the fact that most coal fired generators were built with public money?" he said

"And who's paying for the gold plated wires that guarantee a healthy return for the privatised network owners?"

"That's not a level playing field," he said.

CE4G have partnered with an energy retailer that promises residents and businesses in Goulburn cheaper power than any other retailer in the market.

"Claims of cheaper power that might eventually trickle down in two years are future promises that may or may not happen," said Mr Suttle.

"But people can sign up with our energy partner and save a lot more than the \$100 dollars per year Mr Turnbull is promising, assuming his scheme ever gets off the ground," said Mr Suttle.

"All they have to do is go to ce4g.org.au/signup to reduce their electricity bill **right now**.

"And when people sign up with us, some of the profits will stay here in Goulburn, not trickle off to some large energy conglomerate that is partly owned overseas," he said.

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