

MEDIA RELEASE

13 JULY 2020

For immediate circulation

Country Liberal Government will focus on solar, hydrogen and national energy connectivity for cleaner more affordable energy future

A Country Liberal Government will aim to connect the Territory to the national electricity market, launch a hydrogen export pilot program and further develop solar, as part of an energy plan for a cleaner, more affordable future, with new job opportunities, Opposition Leader Lia Finocchiaro said today.

“It’s time for the Northern Territory to take the next bold clean energy steps into the future by playing to our strengths. That means harnessing our solar potential, developing hydrogen off the back of onshore gas and connecting to the national network to sell our power,” Mrs Finocchiaro said.

A Country Liberal Government will make sure the Territory becomes an energy powerhouse by:

1. Directing the Utilities Commission to conduct a full cost/benefit analysis of:
 - Connecting the Territory to the National Electricity Market.
 - Connecting the Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Darwin energy grids.
 - The optimal mix of renewables to maximise the stability, reliability and affordability of electricity in the Territory.
 - Transporting and selling energy to the East Coast.
2. Tasking the Territory Coordinator with:
 - The design and launch of a commercial hydrogen export pilot program to utilise solar and natural gas resources in order to create a hydrogen production industry in the Northern Territory.
 - Securing new infrastructure corridors to accommodate future energy production and export.
3. Creating a task force within the Department of Chief Minister to explore specific options to help the Territory achieve zero net emissions, including carbon offsets, such as increased utilisation of carbon-farming, carbon sequestration options and improving energy efficiency of the public and private sectors.

Leader of the Opposition
LIA FINOCCHIARO MLA

MEDIA RELEASE

“The Territory has obvious natural advantages with solar, but we should be exploring options to send solar energy to the East Coast market. Connecting to the East Coast would not only drive our economy through increased solar investment, creating long-term jobs and revenue, but would also add stability to the local power grid.

“The commercial production of hydrogen for domestic energy use and for the export market isn’t a far-off aspiration. Last year in Victoria the first large scale hydrogen project, the Hydrogen Energy Supply Chain Pilot Project, began.

“The Territory has all the required inputs for hydrogen production, including abundant natural gas supplies and capacity for vast solar generation. It is estimated that the hydrogen industry will be worth more than \$1.8 trillion by 2050.

“Playing to our strengths is the key. A Country Liberal Government will have the strength and the will to create cleaner, more affordable energy with new jobs and economic benefits for the Territory,” Mrs Finocchiaro concluded.

ENDS