

4 July 2001

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

A joint House Committee of the State Parliament has been established to investigate issues affecting the State's Environment, Resources and Development.

Chairman of the Committee is Government Deputy Leader in the Legislative Council, Doug Parkinson.

Announcing the setting-up of the Committee, Mr Parkinson said the first term of reference would be the use of natural gas in motor vehicles.

"Following the Government's decision to introduce natural gas to Tasmania, it is important that all opportunities are explored to benefit the people of Tasmania."

"Experience in other States suggests that compressed natural gas (CNG) will offer significantly lower costs and is not tied to the price of crude oil. Fleet vehicles in several mainland States are already being converted to CNG."

"Environmentally, compressed natural gas offers the potential for Tasmania to have cleaner, quieter cities, with lower greenhouse gas emissions and less engine noise."

Mr Parkinson said that as part of its enquiry process the Committee would advertise for submissions from business and the community.

Later, the Committee will investigate the use of natural gas as an alternative fuel source for residential and commercial buildings, Mr Parkinson said.

Other members of the Committee are Silvia Smith MLC (Deputy Chair), Greg Hall MLC, Brian Green MHA, Steve Kons MHA and Matt Smith MHA.

Doug Parkinson can be contacted on (03) 6233 3069 or 0418 129 773