



**HON BRYAN GREEN MP**  
**LABOR LEADER**

**17 MAY 2016**

Hon Ivan Dean MLC  
Chair  
Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts  
By email: [pac@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:pac@parliament.tas.gov.au)

Dear Mr Dean

Thank you for your invitation to make a submission to the Public Accounts Committee Inquiry into Government Owned Energy Entities.

You would be aware that I have previously written to the Committee offering to appear before the Committee at a public hearing.

However, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage the Public Accounts Committee to use its powers to request documents that are highly relevant to the terms of reference of the inquiry.

Attached are schedules of documents obtained under Right to Information relating to energy security, the sale of Tamar Valley Power Station, the renegotiation of gas contracts and load shedding for major industrials and residential customers.

The Liberal Government has chosen not to release this information, despite clear public interest in energy security matters.

I note that the terms of reference for the committee also include policies and decisions of past governments.

I no longer have access to documents relating to my time as Energy Minister but I would welcome the Committee seeking documents from this period.

In particular, I note Liberal Government members have expressed an interest in the 2012 decision to reduce the prudent water management level from 30 per cent to 25 per cent.

This is part of a concerted strategy on the part of the Liberals to blame the current energy crisis on Hydro Tasmania's commercial activities during the carbon price period.

Not only is it extraordinary for a Government to attack its own GBE, it is deeply hypocritical when Matthew Groom continued the carbon price trading strategy as Energy Minister and spent the resulting dividends.

I note that the claim that energy security was sacrificed in return for profits is strongly denied by Hydro Tasmania's board and management.

While I cannot speak on Hydro Tasmania's behalf I am happy to stand by my record of maintaining energy security and water levels throughout my period as Minister, including through the carbon price period.

I have attached a graph which shows that water levels remained above 30 per cent for the entire term of the last government. In fact, they were higher in March 2014 than they were at the start of the term in 2010.

All key decisions during my period as Minister were heavily scrutinised by the Parliament as a result of the Energy Expert Panel process, which was endorsed by both Houses.

While the sale of the Tamar Valley Power Station was canvassed by the panel, I did not pursue this option based on Treasury advice that it was an important strategic asset to provide energy security, particularly in the event of a prolonged Basslink outage.

A second graph published in the recent Tasmanian Economic Regulator Energy Performance Report shows that the Tamar Valley Power Station was used extensively to supplement hydro generation from 2009-10 to 2013-14.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance of information.

Yours sincerely



Bryan Green MP  
**State Labor Leader**