



Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck

Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources

Liberal Senator for Tasmania

MEDIA RELEASE

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Shorten walking away from Battery of the Nation

Liberal Senator for Tasmania Richard Colbeck said Bill Shorten's plans announced this morning to subsidise chemical batteries has cast doubt on his commitment to Tasmania's Battery of the Nation project.

Senator Colbeck: "Today Labor jeopardised 3,000 jobs in regional Tasmania so that Elon Musk can buy a new yacht.

"Labor's announcement today on chemical battery handouts has shown that once again Bill Shorten is crab-walking away from vital Tasmanian energy infrastructure that is genuinely renewable.

"Under the Coalition Government, Tasmania is gearing up for a once-in-a-generation investment in the pumped hydro Battery of the Nation project which will bring down power prices, provide reliable energy into the national market and future-proof our State's economy.

"Under Labor, Silicon Valley billionaires will be licking their lips and the Tasmanian taxpayer will foot the bill.

"Expensive chemical batteries will only drive up prices in the grid and send profits offshore, whereas pumped hydro will provide cheap, reliable power and the profits will go into the Tasmanian economy.

"Shorten's plan will also cripple the business case for a second Bass Strait interconnector which is vital for pumped hydro and a range of major North West wind power projects.

"It is becoming clear why Bill Shorten and Labor are only proposing some vague concept of a "Renewable Energy Zone" rather than backing pumped hydro and a second interconnector.

"Justine Keay must decide whether she supports Bill Shorten and Elon Musk or construction and energy workers in Tasmania.

"Only the Coalition will put Tasmanians before tech billionaires."

ENDS

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