



Don Harwin

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Minister for Resources
Minister for Energy and Utilities
Minister for the Arts

MEDIA RELEASE

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“CODE WARM” ENERGY PROTOCOLS TO BEAT EXTREME HEAT FOR SUMMER

The NSW Government welcomes the Energy Security Taskforce’s initial report, which outlines actions to safeguard the state’s energy supply during heatwaves.

Minister for Energy and Utilities Don Harwin formed the taskforce following the February 9th - 12th heatwave. The Taskforce, led by the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer, was asked to identify key actions to protect the state’s power supply in emergency energy situations caused by extreme weather events.

Minister Harwin said the initial report found that NSW is in a good position in terms of its energy supply and reliability.

“The report shows that NSW is more resilient than South Australia and Victoria but we won’t be complacent. We will take a leadership role, particularly in helping the national electricity grid deal with heatwaves,” Mr Harwin said.

“The Government has already started working in line with the direction of the recommendations made by the Energy Security Taskforce in their initial report.”

There will be “Code Warm” protocols in place for Government from this summer to reduce energy use and generate more power in extreme weather to help meet peak demand.

Government will also work with households and businesses to save on their bills over summer by encouraging simple energy efficiency measures.

“Community and government worked together to get through February’s heatwave by moderating energy use. For example, Sydney Water was able to change when it pumped water to lower its use and generate more energy itself,” Mr Harwin said.

“Our Government will announce key measures in coming months to boost energy supply and improve security, which will help consumers save energy and money.

“We recently consulted on \$400 million package to secure new energy supply, deliver the country’s biggest energy efficiency program and a demand management market to reduce peak demand.

“These will be complemented by the roll-out of solar panels on Government roofs and our Government Resource Efficiency Policy, which requires agencies to undertake energy efficiency projects.

“We have more generation under construction in NSW than any other state,” he said.

The report will complement the national energy security review led by Australia’s Chief Scientist Dr Alan Finkel.

“We are in a nation market so we need national reform through the Finkel Review to secure new energy generation, for security and downward pressure on prices. NSW is ready to lead in that process,” Mr Harwin said.

The Energy Security Taskforce will provide a final report toward the end of this year, which will look at longer-term risks to energy security in NSW.

The Initial report recommends:

- NSW take a leadership role in COAG and the COAG Energy Council to ensure nationally aligned energy and climate policies;
- the market operator through its review of generator fuel positions ensure that the market can see if there is sufficient fuel in the system, so that it can anticipate major changes;
- legislative reform to improve the speed with which NSW can respond to an energy emergency;
- changes to ensure a stronger link between energy and emergency management;
- improving procedures for communications during energy emergencies in NSW;
- supporting industry and the community to prepare for and manage risks during energy emergencies; and
- develop new protocols for agencies to reduce demand and increase behind-the-meter supply during periods of peak energy use.

View the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer’s initial report in full here http://www.chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/105280/170505-Initial-Energy-Security-Taskforce-Report_FINAL-SIGNED.pdf.

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