



# **The Hon Chris Hartcher**

## **Minister for Resources and Energy**

### **Special Minister of State**

### **Minister for the Central Coast**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Monday 4 July 2011

### **GREENS FAIL TO SUPPORT NSW HOUSEHOLDS**

The Greens' calls to end Australia's coal industry within ten years would drive up electricity prices and hurt household budgets, Resources Minister Chris Hartcher said today.

A report commissioned by the Minerals Council has found the policy would reduce the national GDP by between \$29 billion and \$36 billion per year and cost 200,000 jobs.

Mr Hartcher said this would have a devastating impact on the NSW economy and place further strain on family budgets,

"Coal is used to generate 91% of NSW electricity. While we remain committed to a broader mix of generation including 20 % renewables by 2020, the complete elimination of coal would sabotage our economy."

The Minerals Council labelled the Greens' argument that renewable energy could easily replace all coal powered energy as 'fanciful'.

"Renewable energy remains far more expensive than coal or gas fired power," Mr Hartcher said.

"It is a myth that renewables can replace all fossil-fuelled generation in NSW and any attempt to do so would have a catastrophic impact on energy supply and cause household power bills to rise dramatically.

"Wind and solar, while an important part of our energy mix, are only typically available 20% of the time and require base-load backup.

"Opposing new hydro, gas and coal, the Greens appear happy to drive up electricity prices to support their policy.

"The Greens just don't care what impact their loony policies would have on NSW households, as well as the thousands of jobs and local economies supported by mining."

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