



**Greg Piper, MP**  
**Member for Lake Macquarie**



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### **Electricity Privatisation Must Protect the Environment**

According to Greg Piper, Member for Lake Macquarie, the State Opposition's backing of the Government means that the fight against power privatisation is all but over.

Mr Piper is calling on the Premier to strengthen environmental outcomes of the sale. Strict conditions should be included in sales and leases to ensure investment in developing renewable energy. The proceeds of privatisation must also be used to encourage research into renewable energy and to reduce energy waste in all sectors.

"There is a serious risk that alternative technologies and carbon trading conditions will be ignored in order to maximise sale or lease prices," Mr Piper said. "The debate on privatisation has unfortunately largely missed this."

According to Mr Piper, the lease conditions should include specific ongoing commitments to the development of gas, solar and geothermal technology with benchmarks and time frames to be met by purchasers and lessees.

Mr Piper says that Australian-designed solar array systems driving steam generators are presently operating in California. "Such sustainable power could easily provide supplementary peak requirements in NSW while we refine geothermal, domestic solar and other technologies" he said.

"The Government must not abrogate its responsibilities on climate change by selling off the problem. The very least it can do is to include carbon trading obligations in any sale or lease agreement and I call on the Government to address these obligations".

"We need to change the way we produce and use energy and the Premier must ensure that this decision does not lock NSW into less than best solutions."