



Greg Piper MP

Member for Lake Macquarie



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Gas the way to go ... NOW!

Greg Piper, Member for Lake Macquarie, has called on the NSW Government to make a commitment to gas rather than coal for new base load power stations. Through questions in Parliament and letters to Ministers, Mr Piper has championed the call for gas as a transitional energy source and is vindicated by the Minister for Energy's statement yesterday that NSW needs to change to gas to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

According to Mr Piper, Energy Minister John Robertson told the Committee for the Economic Development of Australia yesterday that NSW needs to do more to attract investment in gas-fired generation.

"The Minister appears to have accepted the valid and significant reasons for switching to gas," Mr Piper said. "I have long argued this point and I'm glad that the Government now agrees."

"The hypocrisy is that just this month the Minister for Planning gave concept approval for two base load power stations that can be fuelled by coal," Mr Piper said. "With the Minister for Energy now acknowledging that gas emits less than half of the carbon dioxide of coal, we need to see the coal option ruled out."

"The Government can't hide its head in the sand while private operators choose the cheapest and dirtiest fuel," Mr Piper said.

Mr Piper has written to the Premier asking for a commitment that the approved developments sites in the Hunter Valley and at Lithgow will only be sold to private investors prepared to develop the gas option.

"This will undo the recent folly of approving coal as an option," Mr Piper said.

According to Mr Piper, there are ways for the Government to ensure gas supply to the new power stations, including the proposed Hunter gas pipeline that already has approval to run within 7km of the Bayswater site.

"In response to my questioning, Parliament has been told that a plan to secure additional gas supplies for New South Wales is the major element of the Government's clean energy policy," Mr Piper said. "This policy is useless if it's not brought into practice."