

Premier Jay Weatherill

Minister Ian Hunter

Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation
Minister for Water and the River Murray
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation

Monday, 1 December, 2014

Clean Energy Summit to hear from national leaders

Former Federal Liberal Leader Dr John Hewson AM and the author of the Garnaut Climate Change Review Professor Ross Garnaut AO will deliver keynote speeches at today's national Clean Energy Summit.

The Summit has been called by Premier Jay Weatherill following continuing uncertainty around the Federal Government's Renewable Energy Target.

Mr Weatherill said the calibre of speakers and the widespread interest from industry shows the importance of the continuation of the current policy settings around renewable energy targets and clean energy investment.

"Stable renewable energy policy settings have created the right environment for clean energy investment, which has helped make Australia and particularly South Australia global leaders in renewable energy generation," he said.

"South Australia is an international leader in clean energy, but the uncertainty around the RET is putting multi-million dollar projects and thousands of jobs at risk across the nation.

"The world's largest two economies recently committed to carbon emission reductions and renewable energy targets while in Australia we are now looking at doing the opposite."

It is expected that about 80 representatives from industry, research institutes and interest groups will attend the Summit at Parliament House.

The Chief Executive of the Clean Energy Council, Kane Thornton will also deliver a keynote speech outlining the pipeline of investment planned for the clean energy sector.

A plenary panel of Environment Minister Ian Hunter, Infigen Energy Managing director Miles George, deputy executive director of ACIL Allen Marianne Lourey and General Manager of CATCON Steve Moreau will also discuss what is needed for Australia's clean energy future.

Mr Hunter said South Australia is a clear example of what can happen when governments commit to investing in renewable energy.

"Almost 40 per cent of the state's energy now comes from clean energy sources, and we have set an ambitious target of 50 per cent by 2025," he said.

"We have provided the regulatory framework to enable private investment in infrastructure and as a result there's been \$5.5 billion in renewable energy investment since 2003, with 40 per cent of this in regional areas. We have shown that transitioning to a low carbon economy can drive investment and create jobs."