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Member for the Mining and Pastoral Region

MEDIA RELEASE

State government has no plan for WA's energy future

Thursday, 16 July

WA Greens spokesperson on Mining and Energy Robin Chapple MLC said today he was 'bewildered' by the back to back announcements made by Minister Bill Marmion and his department yesterday on the government's plans to back the Uranium export industry, and gas exploration in the state's South-West.

"It is staggering that the state government would follow so closely at the heels of its federal counterparts by prioritising every other source of energy except renewables.

"Renewables are the way of the future and WA has the natural resources to be a world leader in both solar and wind technology.

"Uranium mining for China and India's benefit does nothing but invest more money and resources into an industry that is dying.

"You only have to look at the policies of countries such as Germany and France, who have historically led the way on nuclear power. Germany has a phase-out plan for 2022 and France wants reduce their nuclear reliance by a third in 20 years." Said Mr Chapple.

"As for the Gas exploration, I think the government is in for an uphill battle if they want to convince the West Australians that the 'Unconventional Gas Company Inc.' will be looking to find conventional gas sources and not looking to frack in the area.

"The energy market is reaching a tipping point. It is the responsibility of our elected State Government to legislate in the interests of West Australians to ensure that we have the best options into the future.

"By sticking to business as usual all we will see is the continuing rise of electricity prices and our tax money being squandered on resources that there is declining demand for." Mr Chapple concluded.

For comment please contact Robin Chapple on 0409 379 263 or 9486 8255.

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