



*Your Country Voice*

# Donna Petrovich MP

State Member of Parliament for Northern Victoria Region



## Media Release

29 March 2012

### Coalition's wind farm policy gives certainty to communities and industry

Donna Petrovich, Parliamentary Secretary for Sustainability and Environment, this week in Parliament commended Minister for Planning, Matthew Guy, on delivering planning policy that gives certainty and fairness to both Victoria's wind energy industry and the community.

Mrs Petrovich urged Minister Guy to continue to address the opposition's misinformation and scaremongering regarding this issue and also continue to promote and foster Victoria's important wind energy industry.

"As Parliamentary Secretary for Sustainability and Environment I am passionate about nurturing alternative and sustainable energy industries, but these industries can and must operate in a manner that protects community interests," said Mrs Petrovich.

"It is interesting to note that Labor's wind farm policy talked about environmentally acceptable locations, but what about community acceptable locations? Communities must have a voice in the process - and by that I mean a majority voice, not the voice of a vocal few with narrow agendas."

Mrs Petrovich said that Labor failed to get anywhere near its target for wind-generated energy during its term in government and was now doing its best to talk down Victoria's wind energy industry.

"Labor's wind farm policy divided communities and denied them a voice, excluded local councils from the planning process and left a trail of collateral damage," said Mrs Petrovich.

"The coalition's wind farm policy restores fairness and certainty to the planning process around wind farms, and it restores community rights by providing adequate buffer zones and meaningful consultation."

Mrs Petrovich said that contrary to Labor's scaremongering and misinformation, Victoria's wind energy industry has not faltered due to these important policy changes.

Mrs Petrovich said that Victoria has five wind energy facilities with a combined total of around 200 turbines beginning construction this month.

"This investment is pushing ahead despite uncertainty within the renewable energy sector about Labor's carbon tax legislation and political uncertainty and growing concern over the forthcoming review of the 20 per cent by 2020 renewable energy target," said Mrs Petrovich.

Mrs Petrovich said that the Gillard government is yet to provide terms of reference for the renewable energy target review, and this is causing great uncertainty within the renewable energy industry.

"The forces at play here are complex, and our Labor counterparts are displaying ignorance, hypocrisy and a lack of understanding about this issue," said Mrs Petrovich.

"Labor's open slather approach to wind farms ignored the big picture to the same extent that they ignored community rights and wishes."

END OF MEDIA RELEASE

Further comments: Donna Petrovich 0417 573109 or 5782 2011