



**WIND POWER / RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGETS
26 July 2004**

Member for Flinders Liz Penfold in Parliament this week asked the State Government to put in place a 5% renewable energy target for the state.

Mrs Penfold made the request in response to the Rann Labor Government's criticism of the Federal Government's energy white paper.

"Unless the Labor government puts its money where its mouth is and does something practical and positive, I suggest that it had better be quiet," she said.

Mrs Penfold pointed out that \$4 billion of investment has been lost to the state to date due to the lack of state government support for wind farms.

She said one of those areas of activity is where it is most needed, that is, Whyalla.

"I visited the Whyalla Fabrications and Structural Engineering Company only a few weeks ago. The company, in anticipation of a wind farm industry, had already bought steel rolling and cutting equipment to make the towers.

"We have lost the blade manufacturing which I understand will be at Portland in Victoria, and now we have this equipment standing idle because the state government has not made a commitment.

"This company could have made the towers for the whole of South Australia and indeed look to national and export markets.

"But the Labor government has turned its back on \$4 billion of development and real jobs, which would have meant that people would not have to be on the dole or unemployed – that is \$4 billion of employment activity," she said.

Mrs Penfold said the Rann Labor Government's petty outburst over the Federal Government's energy proposals contradicted its pursuit of a transmission line from New South Wales bringing in dirty coal-fired power which is causing such a problem to the environment.

"I am expecting that there will be no more of this nonsense talk about putting a line between South Australia and New South Wales.

"Instead, I expect to hear that infrastructure on Eyre Peninsula will be upgraded so that energy derived from wind power can be put into the grid.

"The eight to ten national and international companies that have been actively involved in selecting sites on Eyre Peninsula could produce 20 per cent of the state's power requirements," she said.

Mrs Penfold said the state government spent \$64 million on subsidising gas for the people on the gas line from Moomba but if that money had been put into sustainable energy projects it would have released 1500 megawatts of renewable energy and started a whole massive new industry for the state.

Mrs Penfold said she was thrilled with the federal white paper giving \$20 million to the development of systems to hold power produced by renewable energy, thus removing peaks and troughs in supply.

She said she had looked at the vanadium battery being used by wind farms on King Island in the Bass Strait, but was even more interested in the graphite block energy storage system.

“The graphite block technology is a brand new invention with the first one located at Cooma in New South Wales. I will be looking at it to see if it is as good as it sounds,” she said.

Mrs Penfold said one of the biggest graphite mines in the world was south of Port Lincoln.

“If that could be used to make these graphite blocks that we could sell across the world we would have another huge world-class green industry exporting from Port Lincoln.

“With adequate transmission lines on Eyre Peninsula, we could produce 20 per cent of the state’s power coming from green energy, develop the graphite block technology to overcome peaks and troughs, and make a significant contribution to greenhouse gas abatement,” she said.