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Peninsula Faces Energy Crisis

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This week the Hazelwood Power Station will shutdown in the Latrobe Valley due to policy decisions by the Andrews Labor Government. Hazelwood represents 22 per cent of Victoria's power generation and 1000 jobs, providing affordable and reliable power to homes and businesses.

The Andrews Government has tripled the tax on coal and introduced a state-based Renewable Energy Target of 40% by 2025, forcing the closure of Hazelwood. As a result of this decision, St Vincent De Paul Society estimates Victorians are facing \$300 extra on the average annual household energy bill.

Under Daniel Andrews, Victoria is copying South Australia's energy policies which have resulted in blackouts and the highest power prices in the country. Victorians now face 72 days of power shortfall in the next two years according to the Australian Energy Market Operator, putting the State's power security in jeopardy and more pressure on prices.

The Victorian Coalition has called for the Andrews Government to intervene and fight for a staged closure over years as it is the most responsible outcome for the Latrobe Valley and Victoria. This would allow time for the Latrobe Valley workforce to transition and Victoria's energy network to adjust while maintaining reliability, security and affordability. However, Daniel Andrews seems more concerned about meeting costly green targets than he is with people's livelihoods.

The Leader of Opposition, Matthew Guy has announced that a Liberal Nationals Government will scrap the Victorian Renewable Energy Target so Victorians don't have repeated blackouts and higher electricity prices.

"Under Daniel Andrews Hazelwood is powering down and electricity bills are powering up."

"Unless we act, Victoria is bound to have regular South Australian-style blackouts and higher power prices because of Daniel Andrews' reckless policies."

"Victoria needs a Premier to fight for the best interests of Victorians, not allow crime to soar, youth justice centres to be overrun, CFA volunteers to be shafted and power prices to surge because of reckless ideology."