



WHAT WOULD TAX PAYERS SPEND \$64 MILLION ON?

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The Government's \$64m gas subsidy to large gas providers could have funded infrastructure for more than 1000mw of green energy and a new industry worth around \$4billion if spent on a power line on Eyre Peninsula to link proposed wind turbines into South Australia's power grid.

Instead, the Government has chosen a hand-out, that will only benefit gas line connected customers the bulk of whom reside in Adelaide but will be paid for by all taxpayers in the State – not even gas bottles for pensioners and self funded retirees are included. '\$64 million will be spent of taxpayers money and there will be absolutely nothing to show for it.' Mrs. Penfold said.

Mrs Penfold was referring to the estimated 341,000 customers in metropolitan Adelaide who will be given a reduction of \$45 off their gas bills at the introduction of open gas pricing in the State.

'Could it be that the government is trying to disguise the fact that they privatised gas and did it badly? Otherwise why wouldn't they give something to all the electricity users who pay their taxes and are also now subject to open market pricing that has caused them significant price increases.' she said.

Mrs Penfold said Labor could not find funding to upgrade power infrastructure on Eyre Peninsula to enable the development of wind farms that produce green power, cut carbon dioxide emissions, and create hundreds of jobs nor could it find \$4 million for the first stage of Ceduna Area School's redevelopment, or the money needed to cut surgery waiting lists on Eyre Peninsula.

"One of the key recommendations of the Economic Development Board's Framework for the Economic Development of South Australia was the need to build infrastructure in this state.

"Premier Mike Rann said only yesterday that this was one of the board's recommendations adopted by his Labor Government. "But the Labor Government's action does not follow its leader's rhetoric," she said.

Mrs Penfold said 10 national and international companies were at various levels of commitment to the development of wind farms on Eyre Peninsula and between them could supply at least 20% of the State's power needs. Green credits could be sold to the dirty power industries both here and interstate.

"I have sufficient confidence in the commonsense of South Australians to believe that a vast majority would prefer the \$64 million, if its to be spent on power, to be made available for the wind farms to go ahead on the remote west coast of Eyre Peninsula; which is acknowledged as one of the best wind power sites in the world." she said.