



Don Harwin

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Minister for Resources
Minister for Energy and Utilities
Minister for the Arts

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW TO HARNESS POWER OF WATER FOR ENERGY

The NSW Government is inviting the private sector to make new energy investments in the state's water infrastructure.

Minister for Energy and Utilities, Don Harwin, today announced the NSW Department of Planning and Environment is entering into a partnership with WaterNSW to help boost the state's energy security.

"We will be engaging the private sector to look at opportunities in pumped hydro, hydro generation and floating solar which sees photovoltaic panels floated on lakes and ponds," Mr Harwin said.

"We are seeking interest from private companies to look at both large and small-scale opportunities utilising our WaterNSW infrastructure."

Mr Harwin said "pumped hydro is expected to play an important role in balancing a more diverse energy system, especially as more renewables come online in NSW.

"Over the past six years, the share of renewables in the NSW electricity generation mix has more than doubled.

As at March 2018, over 13,000 megawatts of large-scale renewable energy projects are either approved or progressing through the New South Wales planning system, which represents over \$16 billion in investment.

"NSW is geographically blessed with water assets including around 40 dams across the state, some of which could create opportunities for hydroelectricity and floating solar for the community.

"Pumped hydro already plays an important part in NSW's energy system. We want to see dynamic private sector proposals that use our water assets to create energy storage – giving NSW the power when we need it," said Mr Harwin.

The government is supporting the sector by identifying the NSW regions with the highest pumped hydro potential and providing guidance on the regulatory framework for new projects.

Industry will be briefed on this significant opportunity in early May.

"The NSW Government believes in a broad mix of energy technologies. I look forward to COAG energy council this week where I will be strongly encouraging my state counterparts to progress the final design for the National Energy Guarantee," said Mr Harwin.