



WESTERN AUSTRALIA PARTY

# **CHARLES SMITH MLC**

## **MEMBER FOR EAST METRO**

*Putting Western Australians First*

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **Expand gas reservation and cap costs for cheap power, says Smith**

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Western Australia Party MP Charles Smith said he will pledge a 5 per cent increase on the existing Gas Reservation Policy (GRP) ensuring higher supply and less demand, while capping the cost of gas for WA consumers.

Mr Smith said the plan would significantly reduce household and business electricity costs as gas makes up over 60 per cent of the state's electricity generation due to abundant LNG in the state.

The existing policy stipulates that 15 per cent of WA natural gas must be withheld for local gas supply and retailers must show good faith in marketing gas to the local market.

Yet Mr Smith says there is no "good faith" given WA electricity costs have increased under Labor, with supply assured yet no price protection in the existing policy.

"What we have is a policy that sounds and looks nice, but in reality, WA households and businesses end up paying global prices for locally sourced gas.

"This is absurd that Western Australians pay global prices for a product that was sourced from their state.

"The Government has a responsibility to ensure that locals benefit from it by fixing the price of gas and not make it subject to global market fluctuations," Mr Smith said.

The crossbencher said Labor and Liberal electricity policies announced recently are short sighted and are nothing more than vote-appeasing propaganda.

"Both WA Labor and Liberal refuse to look at the causes of gas price hikes which is inherent in the GRP so they offer these crowd-pleasing policies that may offer short-term relief but have no long-term benefits in sight," Mr Smith said.

Mr Smith stated that with gas supply predicted to fall over the next three years coupled with higher demand, will only see more hikes in electricity prices.

“The global gas cartel needs to have its wings clipped – just a little – to prioritise the needs of locals before the gas giants can go and play in the global market.

“The Western Australia Party is not about stunting capitalism; it is about taking care of the needs of locals before selling our valuable resources to the world.”

The plan to reduce electricity and gas costs would form the centrepiece of Mr Smith’s election campaign with the costs of living an ever-increasing burden for WA families.

**ENDS**

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