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3. Retail competition is important for choice and price, and was more equitable for Hydro during the period of Australia's carbon tax.
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5. Yes our energy intensive businesses do need greater price certainty which is being undermined by the federal government's lack of support for renewable energy.
6. No I would not accept a slightly lower level of reliability if it lowered prices significantly.
7. A review of tariff structures would be desirable in conjunction with a roll out of smart meters.
8. New buildings should be 8 star rating and the wall insulation industry should be much better promoted in Tasmania.
9. The Tasmanian Government should subsidise the cost of installing roof insulation.
10. The Tasmanian Government should seek to examine and prepare for the uptake of electric vehicles as a way to increase load growth. Should we connect to the new undersea fibre cable to Singapore we would be in an ideal position to attract large data storage centres for companies like Apple and Google. Such businesses seek to minimise their carbon foot prints and would be very attracted to do business here as a result.
11. Tasmania has substantial geothermal resources and should be exploited to ensure we have enough base load power in the event of a serious drought.
12. If gas prices continue to rise then its use may lead to a significant decrease in consumption. The Government would be better to prioritise energy efficiency.
13. **Key opportunities:** (1) Tasmania is an ideal test bed for the uptake of electric vehicles in Australia. A major benefit of which would be to significantly reduce our reliance on the \$1billion we spend each year importing fuel. Tesla EV's are already outselling luxury models of Mercedes, BMW and Lexus in North America and plan to launch their budget model next year in Detroit. (2) By further developing our reputation as a significant supplier of reliable renewable energy we would attract investment from companies keen to be associated with our clean, green image.
Key issues: (1) How really 'drought proof' is Tasmania? The state government should undertake some serious analysis of this question, as mainland generators would exploit us to the hilt should it ever happen and could potentially cripple our economy. In the late 1960's a drought led to the introduction of daylight savings and a ship was brought in as a standby generator. In 2007 dam levels fell to just 16% of capacity and inflows are predicted to decrease throughout this century. (2) Solar-plus-storage is the greatest threat to Hydro's business model. It should seek to embrace and adapt to this emerging technology to ensure we continue to be the nation's leading provider of renewable energy. Hydro could then look forward to celebrating its bi-centennial in another hundred years time.