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Hunter region doing its bit for a renewable future

The regions peak business body, **Business Hunter**, has issued a response to the “protestival” event underway in Newcastle this week.

Business Hunter CEO, Bob Hawes, described as misleading the suggestion that the region was not doing enough to contribute to a net zero future.

“Our region stands out for its proactive approach to transitioning toward a future powered by renewable energy. Countries around the world look to us for insight and leadership as we drive the transition to a new energy economy. It is both misleading and naïve to suggest that nothing is being done in the Hunter,” said Mr Hawes.

“We have stand out businesses and institutions that are sector leading in the work they are doing. No other region in Australia can boast the presence of an institution such as the Newcastle Institute for Energy and Resources (NIER), where groundbreaking renewable energy ideas and innovations are being developed and made, right here in the Hunter.

“New businesses such as Kardinia, MGA Thermal, MCI Carbon, Allegro Energy, and Energy Renaissance are complementing well established locally based enterprise, taking enormous strides in innovation and production of (materials) that move not just our region but the nation along the pathway to net zero. The wheels of change are not just turning in the Hunter, they are being reinvented here.

“While the Hunter region leads the way in advancing clean energy projects, this transformation takes time and requires a measured approach. Ensuring energy security during this period is essential to support households, businesses, and industries that depend on affordable and uninterrupted power. A well-managed transition will allow the development and scaling of renewable technologies while safeguarding jobs and economic stability, ensuring that the move to renewables is both sustainable and equitable.

“As an exporter of coal to developing nations and nations requiring energy security, the Hunter region also has a role in ensuring these countries meet their immediate energy needs responsibly while promoting a sustainable future.

“Exporting coal to power grids in developing nations can help provide the critical electricity needed to improve quality of life and drive economic progress. For example, nations like India, Indonesia, and Vietnam rely on such imports for their growing energy demands. A dual approach - meeting immediate energy needs while accelerating investment in renewables - is critical to managing this ethical challenge.

“The reality of energy transformation, both in our region and the regions that rely on us is nuanced. We must be careful not to oversimplify these complexities.

“This topic matter is well understood in this region and to suggest it might not be the case is patronising to say the least.”

For interviews please contact Bob Hawes: 0418 496 745