



MEDIA RELEASE

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Ziggy Switkowski looks for the balance between our environment and energy use

Tackling the challenge of moderating and meeting Australia's growing demand for energy in an environmentally responsible way will be the focus of an address by Dr Ziggy Switkowski in Ballarat tonight.

With Australia's demand for electricity, and energy in general, expected to double by 2050 the Federal Government is committed to reducing emissions in line with its recent endorsement of the Kyoto Protocol.

Achieving these aims will not be easy as the former Telstra CEO and chairman of former Prime Minister John Howard's Review of Uranium Mining, Processing and Nuclear Energy Dr Switkowski will reveal in an address to tonight's Committee for Ballarat Round Table Dinner.

Dr Switkowski will discuss the climate changes ahead, the challenges of growing energy usage and the range of low emission technologies, including nuclear power, potentially available.

Dr Switkowski said regional Australia, including Ballarat and its region, also had a role to play in Australia's energy and climate change strategy.

Committee for Ballarat Chair Professor David James said Dr Switkowski's insight into the current and forecast energy situation and his ideas on how regional areas such as Ballarat can best plan for and meet future energy needs would be invaluable to Committee members and the region.

"Like the rest of the world, Ballarat and its region must plan ahead and find ways to reduce emissions while meeting increasing demands. Experts such as Dr Switkowski are a valuable resource from where we can launch our own investigations and come up with answers to these complex and often divisive issues."

Tonight's Committee for Ballarat Round Table Dinner at New York Bakery, Sovereign Hill, is sponsored by Ararat Rural City and Powercor.

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