



# Melinda Pavey MLC

## Duty Member for Monaro

---

### MEDIA RELEASE

---

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2009

#### **LABOR FAILS TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SNOWY HYDRO DEBACLE**

Shadow Minister for Emergency Services and Duty Member for Monaro, Melinda Pavey, today said that the Treasurer Eric Roozendaal's failure to answer questions regarding his decision to block the Snowy Hydro from bidding in the sale of the State's electricity assets demonstrates the failing Labor Government's complete disregard for the Monaro region's long term viability.

Over the past two days the Liberals & Nationals have asked Mr Roozendaal four questions in Parliament regarding their decision to exclude the Snowy Hydro from the competitive bidding process, however he has failed to answer any of them.

"Mr Roozendaal's failure to answer the Liberals & Nationals questions about this very significant issue that will affect the job security of hundreds of people across the Monaro is typical of this broken Labor Government," Mrs Pavey said.

"Mr Roozendaal's pitiful response was followed by a statement that his incompetent Labor Government believes that this decision is in the *"best interests of the people of New South Wales...and that it will support the best outcomes for the community of New South Wales"*.

"This demonstrates absolute disregard for the 200 people in Cooma and 400 people across the Monaro region who are employed by Snowy Hydro and whose jobs may be put on the chopping board as a result of this incompetency.

"This confirms how city-centric this broken Labor Government has become. I find it unfathomable that they refuse to acknowledge the consequences their decision will have upon the local community.

"However given the local Member, Steve Whan's, recent disappearance act when the issue was raised publicly, it's no wonder Mr Roozendaal seems to have forgotten about the local people.

"While the community is in uproar, Mr Whan has gone to ground in an effort to avoid responsibility – an extremely cowardly act," Mrs Pavey said.

Mrs Pavey and Shadow Minister for Energy Duncan Gay questioned the Minister on a range of issues about why the failing Labor Government has decided to penalise a successful local company from growing and expanding in their area.

"Mr Roozendaal refused to answer my question about whether he was aware that the director of the energy and utilities team of the leading global rating agency Fitch Ratings, said that if the Snowy Hydro is excluded from the bidding process, the revenue will potentially be reduced by 30 percent to 40 percent over a five- to 10- year period.

"It's no wonder Mr Roozendaal is dodging bullets and avoiding responsibility, because the consequences will be so devastating, it's simply easier for him to shift the blame," she said.

"In contrast, the Liberals & Nationals support the Snowy Hydro in their quest to ensure they maintain competitiveness and steady growth, and we are committed to working as hard as we can to make sure the local communities get a fair deal," Mrs Pavey said.

**MEDIA: Melinda Pavey 0427 203 051 / Verity Lomax 0413 415 893**