

Media Release

11th July 2007

Southland Energy Forum -

Southland's development is receiving increased expectations towards it becoming a hub for energy, this and the future prospects of developing and increasing business in Southland's manufacturing and servicing sectors makes it timely to hold a forum and allow interested parties to hear from those associated to the development and supply of energy.

A panel of experts has been assembled by The Chamber of Commerce and Employers Association who are hosting the forum at the Invercargill Workingmen's club. The forum, which is admission by registration and ticket only, will be opened by Mayor Tim Shadbolt at 4:00pm on Wednesday July 18th each speaker will present for 20 minutes, and after the presentation there will be a panel discussion made up of the presenters who will take questions from the floor, this will be followed by a hosted social segment.

The speakers and subjects are:

John Pfahlert, PEPANZ... "The future of the Southern Basin"

Brett Gamble, Strategy Director, Solid Energy... "Opportunities for Lignite within the energy mix"

Graig Neustroski, Trustpower.... "Carbon Issues & Wind Powered Generation"

Michael Scotton, Rio Tinto Aluminium... "The Future of the Bluff Smelter"

Chamber Southland C.E.O Mr. Hay said "There is a lot of media attention about the prospects of Southland's energy, heavily weighted on the region as a supplier; the forum is an opportunity for business and other interested parties to have a first hand briefing from those directly involved."

"There are not only the opportunities for Southland's development through supply of energy products and the many opportunities for business growth in the infrastructure required to service the industry, but there are subsidiary industries and products that will develop from this, there are also those business that are developing from the natural growth of the region" he said. "This in turn brings issues of supply and demand for energy itself within Southland."

"The idea of this forum is not only to allow interested persons to hear about Southland's potential as a new player in the supplier of raw energy products but also to get a understanding on the energy available to us to run the growing demand for manufacturing, production and infrastructure in Southland."

"There is a solid interest in the forum with over 120 registration received so far." Mr. Hay said

Admission to the forum is by ticket only these are available from the Chamber of Commerce.

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