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TRANSCRIPT

Interview on Sky News First Edition
Topics: Domestic Gas Reservation Scheme

E&OE

PETER STEFANOVIC: Shadow Assistant Treasurer Kevin Hogan, the Green Senator, David Shoebridge. So, the gas reservation, we will start there, a couple of different points. Where are you on that this morning, David?

DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: We're having good faith discussions with the government on it. Obviously, we have a policy position that wants to see gas consumption go down. That's critical for the climate. We have made it very clear in our public comments that the core policy objective when it comes to gas is to put in place a 25% minimum tax on gas exports, that is the core policy requirement in this space, to provide the revenue needed to do the things that government should do: give people enough to eat and fund our schools and hospitals. So that's our primary goal in this space, to make sure that gas pays its fair share and that we have policy positions that reduce gas use over time. And we're having frank and good faith discussions with the government in that regard.

PETER STEFANOVIC: But as things stand, are you inclined to support it or not?

DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: There's still a parliamentary inquiry that's on foot. There'll be further evidence tomorrow. There are many stakeholders have real concerns that this package may promote additional gas use. It may potentially promote some of the most damaging projects such as Beetaloo Basin and others. It's a complex policy, but I think it's important that we step it through.

We see the evidence that comes out in this inquiry, and we're still having discussions with the government about it.

PETER STEFANOVIC: All right, Kevin, your thoughts on where that's at, at the moment?

KEVIN HOGAN: Yeah, we are negotiating in good faith too, Pete. Obviously support the deal in principle, but there's some things regarding Western Australia. There're things we want to fast-track new developments. We want new gas to come online as well. There's things around emission three reporting's that we have some lines in the sand that we're negotiating with them on. But in principle, we support it. We support the principle of a gas reservation scheme.

PETER STEFANOVIC: They're still in statements at the moment, back to you, David on the FTA with the EU. The Prime Minister mentioned that. Possibly a question or two on that today. Now, you've mentioned that there could be climate demands to get your support for this contentious EU free trade agreement.

Is that right?

DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: We look at the agreement as a whole, and what it does is it connects two economies and groups of people on the planet that share a lot of common values. We share a lot of common values with Europe and when trade also is underpinned by common values that provides long-term security for the trade.

So, I think that's something we should acknowledge in the space. But in this agreement, there are clear climate commitments that Europe require, which is consistent with public commitments from this government on the Paris climate accords. We want to make sure that those are real.

They're not just words on a piece of paper, that they're real. And of course, we're also talking with various industries because there's some that are concerned, but there's many that see positives.

PETER STEFANOVIC: All right, we'll see where that goes. We know you're against this. I've spoken to your colleagues during the week, Kevin, but David, Kevin, we'll have to leave it there. Appreciate your time though.

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