

Pipeline plan 'will do nothing for WA'

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Premier Colin Barnett's renewed call for a trans-Australia gas pipeline has been slammed as a "grandiose plan" that will do nothing to secure WA's energy future.

The Premier said on Wednesday a privately-owned pipeline could be built "within two years" and was more effective than an emissions trading scheme if it meant eastern states reduced their dependence on coal-fired power stations.

He made the comments as he also stated WA's energy supplies were far from secure, saying power could not be guaranteed for the next three years.

The Government has indicated it will re-merge state-owned generator Verve with retailer Synergy in an effort to stem the hundreds of millions of dollars from the former. However, the move has been criticised by industry groups.

Labor Energy spokeswoman Kate Doust said the Premier needed to state what its plans were for Verve and Synergy "instead of continually repeating throwaway comments on pipelines and other issues without ever providing the details".

Conservation Council spokeswoman Jessie Cochrane said while a pipeline could be part of a cleaner energy future "more likely it will be a revolution in renewable energy".

"Western Australia has access to world-class renewable energy resources, we need to be embracing emissions trading and rapidly restructuring our economy around these clean energy sources," she said.

"If the Premier wants to see an end to coal and a move to less polluting industries, he should be supporting the (emissions trading scheme)."