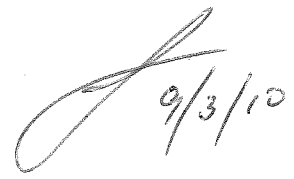


Lance McCallum

From: Charlotte Petersen
Sent: Tuesday, 9 March 2010 9:11 AM
To: Lance McCallum
Subject: RE: 6 - 3 media releases - 3 times in parliament



Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and Minister for Trade
The Honourable Stephen Robertson

Wednesday, April 15, 2009

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST OPEN FOR SOLAR HOT WATER SCHEME

Expressions of Interest are now being sought from industry to supply, deliver and install the Bligh Government's Solar Hot Water Program.

Natural Resources, Mines and Energy Minister Stephen Robertson said today's announcement was delivering on the State Government's commitment to move as fast as possible on this program.

"Over three years we want the scheme to deliver up to 200,000 solar water heaters and heat pump water systems to Queenslanders at a fixed reduced price," Mr Robertson said.

"With the 200,000 supply guarantee what we're doing is encouraging industry to bring these systems to market at a much lower cost to Queenslanders.

"The State Government will offer fully installed, greenhouse efficient hot water systems for \$500 for eligible Queensland Households.

"To qualify for the program Queenslanders must be eligible for Federal assistance totaling around \$2800 and must have an electric hot water system. A full list of criteria will be released shortly.

"Since the program commenced last week nearly 18 thousand Queenslanders have indicated their interest in accessing affordable hot water systems.

"This is a great response from the public and indicates thousands of people want to cut their greenhouse gas emissions and potentially save up to \$300 on the average household's annual electricity costs.

Mr Robertson said by canvassing a range of businesses to express interest, the government wants to allay industry concerns that only one supplier would get all the business.

Submissions for both EOIs are due by 2pm, April 30.

An industry briefing to explain the EOI process will be held on Thursday, April 16 from 6.30pm to 8pm at Brisbane's Icon Theatre, Level 1, 175 Eagle Street, River Promenade.

"In the meantime consumers can register their interest for the Solar Hot Water Program by calling 1800-243-585 or by visiting the Office of Clean Energy website at www.cleanenergy.qld.gov.au," Mr Robertson said.

Media Contact: Minister Robertson's office 3224 7332

Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and Minister

for Trade

The Honourable Stephen Robertson

Wednesday, July 01, 2009

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR QLD SOLAR HOT WATER PROGRAM

Energy Minister Stephen Robertson today opened the application process for the Queensland Solar Hot Water Program that has been designed to help cut household electricity bills and reduce their carbon emissions.

Mr Robertson said hot water generation is the single biggest contributor to household energy bills.

From today approximately 28,000 Queenslanders who have registered their interest in the Program will start receiving their application packs by email and post.

“It’s never been more affordable for Queenslanders to switch to solar and save with the Queensland Solar Hot Water Program,” Mr Robertson said.

“The Program offers a standard installation, greenhouse efficient solar hot water system or heat pump for \$100 to eligible Queensland pensioners and \$500 to all other eligible Queensland households.

“We are delighted by the overwhelming response to be a part of a program that offers reductions in household electricity bills of up to 25% and cuts harmful household greenhouse gas emissions by up to 30%.

“All Queenslanders can still register and then apply for the Program.

“Those who register for Program updates from 1 July will receive application packs after the first group of applicants have been processed.”

Mr Robertson said the government had outlined from the beginning that to qualify for this Program Queenslanders must also be eligible for the \$1600 Federal Government’s Solar Hot Water Rebate initiative and assign over Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) to the installer.

“It is by leveraging these Federal initiatives and the might of the Bligh Government’s standing offer arrangement that we are able to deliver to Queenslanders solar hot water systems or heat pumps for such a low price,” he said.

“At the election the Bligh Government committed to providing Queenslanders with a solar hot water system or heat pump for a maximum of \$500 and this government delivers on its promises.

“The government will pay \$1600 to suppliers on behalf of program participants to ensure eligible Queenslanders receive a standard installation and system for only \$500 or \$100 up front.

“Once the system is installed Queenslanders can apply for the Federal rebate.

“When participants receive the \$1600 rebate for participating in the Federal Government’s Solar Hot Water Rebate initiative, the Queensland Program will require reimbursement of \$1600.

“Queenslanders must ensure they are eligible for the \$1600 Federal rebate and agree to sign over the RECs to the installer before applying for the Queensland Solar Hot Water Program.

“Unfortunately if someone is successful in having a solar hot water system or heat pump installed under our program - but are subsequently deemed ineligible for the \$1600 Federal rebate - the participant will have to make up this difference.

“I urge Queenslanders to be diligent in their applications so they are not unexpectedly out of pocket.

“Let me be crystal clear you must be eligible for and willing to pay the Queensland Government the \$1600

Federal rebate, and sign over RECs to the installer, to receive a \$500 or \$100 standard installation system under the Queensland program.

“Once the application has been approved the program manager will provide further details as to how the installation will progress.

“Participants in the Queensland program will also have to meet any council inspection fees which are charged by some councils when new hot water systems are installed.”

Mr Robertson said the Queensland Solar Hot Water Program represents one of the largest and most complex industry transformation projects of its kind in the state.

“It’s also a key part of this government’s recently announced Queensland Renewable Energy Plan – a comprehensive economic and industry development strategy aimed at accelerating the growth of the renewable energy sector in Queensland.

“We believe that successful implementation of the Plan will help to leverage up to \$3.5 billion in new investment, create up to 3,500 new jobs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 40 million tonnes by 2020.”

To register to participate in the scheme or to receive Program updates, visit the Office of Clean Energy website on www.cleanenergy.qld.gov.au, or call the Program hotline Monday-Friday 8am-5pm on 13 25 23.

ENDS

Media contact

Minister’s office: 3224 7332

Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and Minister for Trade

The Honourable Stephen Robertson

Thursday, October 08, 2009

Bligh Government delivers on Solar Hot Water Program Commitment

Installations under the Bligh Government’s Queensland Solar Hot Water Program have begun following the appointment of the Program’s first supplier.

Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy Stephen Robertson said the Bligh Government had entered into a Standing Offer Arrangement with Conergy Australia, while negotiations continued with other shortlisted suppliers.

“This program was an election commitment and this government delivers on its commitments,” Mr Robertson said.

“We aim to roll out up to 200,000 solar hot water systems over the next three years for just \$500 for eligible Queenslanders and \$100 for eligible pensioners.

“Today I visited a family in Windsor to watch the first installation of a solar hot water system under this program and hear first hand the difference their new system will make.

“Our program can not only save Queenslanders up to \$300 a year on a typical electricity bill but will also contribute to our *Toward Q2* goal of reducing Queensland’s carbon footprint by one-third by 2020.

“This program relies on the Commonwealth’s solar rebate and to be eligible applicants must be able to claim this Federal assistance.

“This is an important milestone in what will be one of the largest industry transformation projects of its kind in Queensland.

“This Program is a major industry development initiative designed to help industry meet the future demand that will be created by the phase-out of electric storage hot water systems from 2010.

“With the first supplier on board, we are now in a position to begin matching successful applicants with installers in their local area,” Mr Robertson said.

“This program aims to triple the current rate of solar hot water installations in Queensland and share this opportunity for growth across a panel of suppliers.

“The Invitation to Offer process will be regularly re-opened to provide companies with new opportunities to become involved in the program.

“The Office of Clean Energy is also investigating ways of linking smaller installation businesses with suppliers to help spread work across the industry.”

All products installed under the Queensland Solar Hot Water Program are tested and certified as meeting relevant Australian Standards.

Conergy Australia will provide product warranties on systems installed under the Queensland Solar Hot Water Program and installation guarantees, the same as those offered to customers in the open market.

“This has been a challenging program to deliver, particularly in an environment where the price of renewable energy certificates have been declining over the past few months,” Mr Robertson said.

“Whilst Conergy is a small and relatively new company, we hope that by participating in this Scheme it will consolidate and grow its presence here in Queensland.

“I acknowledge that there may be some risks in going forward with a company of this size however it needs to be appreciated that the large suppliers have to date not chosen to participate in our scheme.

“It also needs to be appreciated that one of the outcomes we are seeking to achieve is to have a solar hot water industry grow here in Queensland to create new jobs in a future carbon constrained economy.

“I thank Conergy for their support. It is through their innovation and vision in joining with the government that the solar industry in Queensland has taken another step forward.

“Meanwhile we are continuing our negotiations with other companies and we are hopeful that more suppliers will be joining our Program soon.”

Mr Robertson said that over the next few weeks the Office of Clean Energy will contact approved applicants to provide them with the contact details of their supplier and the next steps they need to take.

“The Office of Clean Energy has already received more than 10,000 completed applications and more than 40,000 registrations of interest from Queenslanders wanting to participate in the program,” he said.

“The rate of installations will ramp up as we enter into Standing Offer Arrangements with more suppliers, so initially it will be a slow start.

“Let me make it clear that the Queensland Solar Hot Water Program is targeted at early replacement of electric storage hot water systems in existing homes to help curb greenhouse gas emissions in Queensland.

“Queenslanders must be eligible for Federal assistance and be willing to reimburse to the Queensland Government the Commonwealth’s \$1600 solar hot water rebate.

“We are only targeting one sector of the Queensland hot water industry—this program is not available for new homes, commercial or emergency replacements, or homes with existing solar or gas hot water systems.”

Information about the Queensland Solar Hot Water Program is available to download from the Office of Clean Energy website www.cleanenergy.qld.gov.au or by calling the hotline on 132 523 during business hours.

ENDS

3224 7332

Charlotte Petersen
Office of the Hon. Stephen Robertson MP
Minister for Natural Resources, Mines & Energy
Minister for Trade

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Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: Lance McCallum
Sent: Tuesday, 9 March 2010 9:04 AM
To: Charlotte Petersen
Subject: RE: 6 - 3 media releases - 3 times in parliament

Can you send me the releases and fax down the qwons and min stats pls

From: Charlotte Petersen
Sent: Tuesday, 9 March 2010 8:52 AM
To: Lance McCallum
Subject: 6 - 3 media releases - 3 times in parliament

3 media releases
(out of 6 total releases on solar)
2 QwoN - both times in response we mention feds
2 Min Stats - one mentions feds one doesn't

6 total mentions

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Minister for Trade

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