

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 2006

asked on Tuesday, 29 November 2011

MS MALE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (MR ROBERTSON)—

QUESTION:

As I understand one of the big energy costs for homeowners as summer approaches and the weather heats up are not only air-conditioners but the costs to run pool pumps, will the Minister advise how pool owners in my electorate can save on their electricity bills?

ANSWER:

An average 1.1 kilowatt pool pump uses the same amount of electricity per hour as a small split system air-conditioner. This can typically cost a Queensland pool owner around \$550 per annum to run, when connected to continuous Tariff 11.

When the pool pump runs between 4.00 pm and 8.00 pm, it can also contribute to peak demand. Peak demand is one of the major causes of rising electricity prices as it requires the building of more electricity network infrastructure to provide supply.

This is why the Queensland Government changed the tariff conditions on 1 July this year to make it easier for pool owners to connect their pool pumps to off-peak Tariff 33. Switching to Tariff 33 can save pool owners approximately \$220 per year in running costs. Supply is guaranteed for a minimum of 18 hours per day and the tariff is 40 per cent cheaper (at current rates) than Tariff 11.

Where it is not possible for a pool owner to convert to the off-peak tariff, they can still save money on electricity bills by installing a five star energy efficient pump. Compared with older model pool pumps, these are up to 80 per cent more energy efficient, which translates to ongoing savings.

To assist pool owners in South East Queensland to either convert to Tariff 33 or install a five star energy efficient pump, ENERGEX is currently offering a \$250 EFTPOS gift card when the changeover is made.

Pool owners interested in obtaining more information on the offers available, the advantages of off-peak tariffs in general, and other energy saving ideas should contact ENERGEX or visit their website at www.energex.com.au.