



Hon Stephen Robertson MP
Member for Stretton



**Queensland
Government**

**Minister for Energy and
Water Utilities**

CLLO/11112

11 NOV 2011

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr George and Alice Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 26 October 2011, forwarding petition number 1793-11. I have considered the petition carefully and am pleased to provide my response.

With regard to the residents of manufactured home parks being able to participate in the Solar Bonus Scheme, I should point out that the scheme is only available for small customers who consume less than 100 megawatt hours of electricity per year. As large electricity customers, the owners of residential parks are not eligible to participate in the scheme.

In addition, to be eligible for the scheme, customers must have an agreement in place with their electricity distributor and have the appropriate meter installed. In the situation of manufactured home parks, where electricity is being on-supplied by the park owner, the residents do not have a direct relationship with the electricity distributor or a retailer, and are therefore not eligible to participate in the scheme.

It is important to note that while the park owner can negotiate a power purchasing agreement (PPA) with its retailer for electricity feed back into ENERGEX's electricity network, there is no requirement under the *Electricity Act 1994* for the park owner to pass this on to the individual home owners.

However, section 99A of the *Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act 2003* (the MHRPA) prevents the park owner from profiteering on utility charges, which includes the supply and sale of electricity. Should a PPA between a park owner and the retailer result in the park owner's electricity costs decreasing, under the MHRPA those savings should be passed along to the residents of the park.

Level 17
61 Mary Street Brisbane Qld 4000
PO Box 15216 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3225 1861
Facsimile +61 7 3225 1828
Email energy@ministerial.qld.gov.au

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I note the suggestion to review the scheme and its eligibility requirements, and I would like to assure you that the ongoing performance of the scheme is being continually monitored to ensure it remains cost-effective and sustainable in the long term. Issues such as those raised in the petition will be considered as part of this ongoing review.

Any questions about this response can be referred to Mr Alex Archer, Principal Technical Officer, Energy Sector Monitoring, Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, who can be contacted on telephone 3239 0032 and will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Robertson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

STEPHEN ROBERTSON MP