



Speech by

## Hon. Robert Swarten

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

Hansard Thursday, 23 August 2007

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### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

#### Energy Efficient Desktop Computers

**Hon. RE SCHWARTEN** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Public Works, Housing and Information and Communication Technology) (10.09 am): The Queensland government has established a new standing offer arrangement to purchase computer desktop equipment. We have two aims with this new arrangement—firstly, to save money and, secondly, to get more energy efficient computers into government offices. The new arrangement commences this month and the savings generated from it will be more than \$20 million in a full year of use when based on the prices the government was paying six months ago.

The Queensland government will be buying a range of brands through Fujitsu, Data 3 and Dell. Support services will be provided by 49 regionally based service agents. As well as saving money, the arrangement also stands to save energy in the workplace and contribute to a greener environment. The Queensland government intends to purchase Energy Star qualified computers.

Energy Star is an international standard for energy efficient electronic equipment. The new energy efficient desktops will include power settings and stand-by power-saving modes that will help reduce energy costs by a minimum of 30 per cent, when compared to the previous generation of desktop PCs.

By buying computing products that provide maximum performance for the least amount of power we are creating a cleaner, greener Queensland. In line with State Purchasing Policy, the new arrangement also seeks to ensure that any negative environmental impact from disposing of used computers is significantly reduced. The dumping of old computers has become a serious environmental problem for the community since the silicon chips, circuit boards and monitors found in computer hardware contain toxic chemicals and metals.

Under the new arrangement, suppliers will be required to demonstrate a track record in taking back used government hardware for reselling and appropriate recycling. This is a good outcome for Queensland government agencies and will deliver quality recyclable energy efficient computer hardware at the best possible price.