



Speech by

Hon. Robert Swarten

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

Hansard Wednesday, 3 June 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Government Buildings, Energy Efficiency

Hon. RE SCHWARTEN (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Public Works and Information and Communication Technology) (10.04 am): The Department of Public Works is leading by example when it comes to increasing energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions. In April 2007, the government committed to the ambitious target of cutting national greenhouse gas emissions by 60 per cent by 2050 through its ClimateSmart 2050 initiative. Public Works is administering a Strategic Energy Efficiency Policy for government buildings which establishes minimum energy consumption reduction targets for all departments of five per cent by 2010 and 20 per cent by 2015 compared to energy consumption in 2005-06. I am pleased to inform the House that we are well on track to meeting that five per cent reduction by 2010.

An annual energy saving of 24 per cent has been achieved at 61 Mary Street, 14 per cent at the Land Centre and 27 per cent at the Gabba Towers. At the comparatively newer buildings at 33 Charlotte Street and the State Archives in Runcorn, eight per cent and three per cent have been saved respectively. Three more retrofitting projects—111 George Street, the CITEC Building and 62 Ann Street—are due for completion by the end of the month. Another five—the Neville Bonner Building, 30 Mary Street and government buildings in Townsville, Maryborough and Cairns—will be completed by December.

The reductions are being achieved through the use of more energy-efficient lighting and improved air-conditioning and building management systems. We are also utilising the latest technology to achieve our goals. Motion-detecting lighting has been installed in Gabba Towers so lights are on only when needed—I am thinking of getting that in my house—while 30 Mary Street will adopt a range of technological innovations, including card activated lighting.

The use of energy performance contracts will see the department's energy consumption reduced by 15 per cent by the end of 2009-10, which is a drop of 18 million kilowatts each year that will deliver annual savings of around \$2 million. Solar energy is being trialled as an alternative source of power for government owned office buildings. The Department of Public Works building at 80 George Street is generating some seven kilowatts of electricity from solar photovoltaic panels installed on the roof. In Rockhampton, the James Larcombe government office building in Bolsover Street has installed solar photovoltaic panels capable of generating up to five kilowatts of electricity. These are just some of the ways in which Public Works is playing its part in achieving our Toward Q2 target of creating a greener Queensland.