



Speech by

Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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SOLAR ENERGY

Mr RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (12.44 pm): Like many thousands of Queenslanders, I am doing the bright thing. I am eagerly awaiting the installation of a grid connected solar PV system at my home in Narangba so that I, too, can be a part of the virtual solar system being built by people all around Queensland.

The Queensland government is serious about being a world leader in large scale solar energy production and utilisation. I am pleased that many thousands of Queenslanders want to also play their part. We all take pride in the fact that Queensland is renowned for its sunshine. Queensland's fantastic sunshine lifestyle is one of the factors that makes our state such a great place to live. By investing in solar energy production and utilisation projects and by encouraging Queenslanders to do the same, the Queensland government is delivering on its commitment to make Queensland the solar state. I have been contacted by many people of the Morayfield state electorate who are interested in helping transform Queensland into the solar state. Those people want to do the bright thing, but they also want to reduce their electricity consumption and, accordingly, save money on their electricity bills.

I take this opportunity to inform members of the House and Queenslanders more generally about the key initiatives being offered by the Queensland government to encourage Queenslanders to be a part of the government's solar state transformation strategy. The Solar Bonus Scheme is providing eligible and participating Queenslanders with grid connected solar PV power systems a credit of 44c per kilowatt hour for all surplus electricity fed into the power grid. This scheme is providing a financial incentive to energy users to install solar PV power systems. I am pleased that increasing numbers of people in the Morayfield state electorate are taking up this offer. Those people are already doing the bright thing. Those people are already saving the environment and saving money on their electricity bills, and they are helping to transform Queensland into the solar state.

The new Queensland Solar Hot Water Rebate is also helping eligible Queenslanders do the bright thing. The new Queensland Solar Hot Water Rebate provides eligible Queenslanders with a financial incentive to switch their current electric hot-water system to a solar hot-water system. In addition to any rebates and incentives offered by the federal government, eligible Queensland pensioners and low-income earners can now apply for a \$1,000 rebate and all other eligible Queenslanders can apply for a \$600 rebate for a solar hot-water system or heat pump system. Combined with the rebates and incentives offered by the federal government, eligible householders are now able to save up to \$3,300 off the cost of a new solar hot-water system. Not only will this new rebate system encourage the take-up of solar hot-water systems around Queensland; it will also encourage competition between suppliers and between installers of solar hot-water systems. This competition will further support the growth of the solar industry in Queensland. By doing the bright thing and changing to solar hot water, households can not only save money on their electricity bills but also help to save our environment.

The Queensland government is also helping to support local sporting and community groups with the installation of solar hot-water systems and solar PV power systems by asking the Gambling Community Benefit Fund to prioritise solar applications. This is just another way that the Queensland

government is making sure Queensland's not-for-profit community and sporting groups can do the bright thing and generate ongoing savings for their groups in the form of savings on their electricity bills. It is estimated that switching to solar will mean that those Queensland community organisations will collectively save up to \$245,000 each year in electricity costs. Those collective savings mean that those organisations have more money to do the things that they are good at. They have more money to support members of their sporting organisations and they have more money to support their community. I also understand that this switch will help avoid approximately 1.2 gigawatt hours of electricity consumption and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by around 1,300 tonnes per annum. This priority program is good news for community groups both now and into the future. It will help those organisations do the bright thing.

The Queensland government is serious about being a world leader in solar energy production and utilisation. I encourage all people in the Morayfield state electorate to do the bright thing and help make Queensland the solar state.