




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

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ADJOURNMENT

Bancroft Electorate, Solar Energy

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (6.02 pm): I can report to the House that residents in my area love solar rooftops. Local residents are following the Palaszczuk government's lead and investing in the renewable energy economy. They are showing the federal Liberal government just what leadership looks like. As of January 2019, there are over 13,000 systems and over 56 megawatts of total solar PV capacity installed in our area. There are 1,342 solar rooftops systems in Burpengary East, 2,319 in Deception Bay and 249 in North Lakes. Local residents are now starting to really take up the opportunity that we are offering to help fund solar and battery storage in households.

Under the Palaszczuk government, home owners can apply for interest-free loans and grants for a combined solar and battery storage system or to add battery storage to their existing solar system. Under the IFLSS scheme, around 1,000 assistance packages are available for combined solar and battery systems. It offers grants of \$3,000 plus interest-free loans of up to \$10,000, repayable in 10 years. There have been 2,000 applications for this scheme in Queensland already. As of 25 February 2019, 70 applications have been received in my area and 62 applications have been approved: five in Deception Bay, five in Burpengary and 25 in North Lakes-Mango Hill.

Solar rooftops are flourishing in the Bancroft electorate because of the Palaszczuk government plan to support rooftop solar and the renewable energy industry. The Powering Queensland Plan is an integrated energy plan for our state and it will: support the transition to a cleaner energy sector; create new investments and jobs; and guide the state through the challenges facing Australia's energy markets. As part of that plan we have set a target of one million rooftops or 3,000 megawatts of solar photovoltaics in Queensland by 2020. We are over halfway there. With 592,000 households, we have the highest number of installations in Australia.

Our biggest power station in Queensland is our solar rooftop array, with 2,000 megawatts of solar PV capacity. We got there despite the lack of a credible rooftop solar policy from the federal Liberals. In fact, they lack a renewable energy policy of any credibility. They ignore the need to transition to clean energy. They show that they believe the government has no role in supporting investor confidence. We need a national energy policy that recognises the need to decarbonise our energy system and provides investment certainty for industry, but we will not wait for leadership from the feds: we will provide it as the state government in our local communities.