

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 411

asked on Tuesday, 13 March 2007

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**MR KNUTH** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR MINES AND ENERGY (MR WILSON)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Energy Choices election commitment announced through the Team Beattie website on 7 September 2006 —

- (1) What are the estimated costs of implementing this policy?
- (2) Why hasn't this policy yet been introduced and when will it be implemented?
- (3) What are the estimated energy savings and environmental benefits of this policy?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for his question.

- (1) In relation to the costs of the policy, provision has been made for \$14.25 million in funding over three years. The funds are allocated between three separate programs:
  - \$4 million for a domestic Gas Installation Rebate Scheme targeting replacement of existing electric appliances with gas appliances;
  - \$5 million for an expansion of the State's EnergyWise energy efficiency program; and
  - an additional \$5.25 million to demonstrate leadership by Government through an enhanced Government Energy Management Strategy (GEMS) to improve energy efficiency and boost renewable energy use in Government buildings.

Under the Gas Installation Rebate Scheme, \$3.75 million of the \$4 million in funding will go directly into householders' pockets. The remaining amount will fund implementation and administrative costs, such as publishing forms and customer information, marketing, claim processing and auditing.

- (2) The Energy Choices policy is being implemented. My Department is targeting a launch date for the Gas Installation Rebate Scheme of April 2007, with eligibility backdated to 7 September 2006.

The funding for the expanded EnergyWise program commences on 1 July 2007 and implementation is expected to follow soon after this date. The program will include:

- a Home EnergyWise service that includes delivering products and services such as energy audits and energy efficient light bulbs;

- a Home EnergyWise Tool Box, including an appliance meter to measure the energy use of each home appliance, available for loan from libraries throughout Queensland;
  - an EnergyWise Off Peak campaign to encourage people to switch appliances such as pool filter pumps to off-peak rates; and
  - an energy efficient street lighting trial conducted in conjunction with councils in South-East Queensland and in regional cities.
- (3) Changing from electricity to gas for heating water and cooking will reduce a household's greenhouse gas emissions by approximately two tonnes a year. Over the 3 years, the Gas Installation Rebate Scheme is expected to deliver approximately 15,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas savings, with additional savings for each year the gas appliance continues to operate.

The Gas Installation Rebate Scheme will also encourage energy efficiency, by requiring that gas hot water systems – the household appliance which uses the largest gas volume – must have at least a 5 star efficiency rating.

Details of the estimated energy savings and environmental benefits for the expanded EnergyWise program will be provided with the launch of the program.

Responsibility for the implementation of the enhanced GEMS program falls within the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Public Works. Questions in relation to this program should be redirected accordingly.