

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 1746**  
**Asked on Thursday, 13 November 2008**

QUESTION:

**MR MOORHEAD** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND INNOVATION (MR MCNAMARA) —

Will he inform the House of the public response to the Queensland Government's 'The Big Light Switch' initiative and how this initiative will assist Queenslanders to reduce their carbon emissions?

ANSWER:

I thank the member for Waterford for his question.

The Environmental Protection Agency was very proud to help Queenslanders to save money and the environment through *The Big Light Switch* initiative.

The initiative has resulted in the successful Statewide distribution of one million energy efficient compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) to help reduce Queensland's carbon footprint.

It is part of our Government's campaign for a greener Queensland and our Toward Q2 vision in action.

From Sunday 9 November, 500,000 CFLs were given away through newsagents across the State, with a further 500,000 CFLs distributed through Australia Post outlets from Monday 10 November.

The public response to the campaign was overwhelming and has set a record for the biggest ever giveaway of energy efficient light bulbs in Australia.

Many newsagents ran out in a matter of hours and there were queues outside post offices before they even opened on the Monday. Most Australia Post outlets were also out of stock by the end of Tuesday.

This tremendous response clearly demonstrates that Queenslanders want to be part of making a difference to climate change.

*The Big Light Switch* initiative was designed to encourage individuals to take action on climate change and to promote energy efficiency.

Through this initiative we have been able to show people how even the small changes that they make in their homes can have a big impact on their carbon footprint.

By changing just one incandescent bulb to CFLs, households can save 72 kilograms of CO<sub>2</sub> and \$11 a year on their electricity bill.

If all 1 million energy saving light bulbs are installed, Queenslanders will collectively save 750,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> and \$115 million in energy costs over the life of the bulbs.

That's a huge reduction and is the equivalent of taking 175,000 cars off the road.

This campaign is an example of what Q2 is all about - individual Queenslanders making ClimateSmart choices to make a real difference to our environment