

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 1783**  
**Asked on Tuesday, 25 November 2008**

QUESTION:

**MRS LAVARCH** asked the Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation (Mr McNamara) –

Will he advise all of the measures the State Government has put in place to help people in the electorate of Kurwongbah become climate smart?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government's *Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland* includes ambitious targets for reducing the carbon emissions. A number of priority initiatives are helping all Queenslanders to support this goal, reduce their carbon footprint and become climate smart.

Climate smart living is about reducing energy and water use in the home. It is about reducing car use, taking public transport, cycling and walking instead of driving. It is about taking action at home, at work and in our daily lives to reduce the carbon emissions that we generate.

People in Kurwongbah can access a number of Queensland Government programs that are helping to reduce energy and water use in the home.

The Environmental Protection Agency's ClimateSmart Living website provides a wealth of information to help Queenslanders use resources more efficiently. It is a one stop shop for information about climate change and sustainable living. It also includes a comprehensive Carbon Calculator to assist Queenslanders in determining their carbon emissions and the actions they can take to reduce them.

The ClimateSmart Living Campaign has supported many programs that have helped communities to get involved in carbon abatement projects - the Low Carbon Diet, the Cool NRG – green bulb campaign, the Black Balloons campaign, ClimateSmart Retail and the Premier's Climate Change Awards for Communities.

The Low Carbon Diet is a 30-day program that is available to help householders reduce their carbon emissions by 2,000 kilograms a year by making simple changes to everyday actions—like using cold water to wash clothes; only running the dishwasher when it's full; turning off lights in an empty room; and raising the temperature of the air conditioner by a degree.

The Low Carbon Diet Community Funding Program is helping Queensland not-for-profit incorporated community organisations and local councils to implement the Low Carbon Diet. This two-year funding program offers grants between \$2,000 and \$10,000 to help out with administration and delivery costs.

The ClimateSmart Living Black Balloons television commercial has helped to educate Queenslanders about the need to use less energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The 'Big Light Switch' campaign has distributed 1 million compact fluorescent light globes to households across the State.

The ClimateSmart Retail program is helping retailers to provide advice about the environmental impacts of energy and water efficient products. Residents in Kurwongbah will be able to obtain advice on energy saving appliances through their local Good Guys and Retravisation outlets.

The ClimateSmart Home Service, commencing in January 2009, has been put in place to provide Queensland householders with support to reduce energy consumption. The service will provide energy efficient products, a household energy monitor and a home audit and advisory service that will help Queensland families to conserve energy around the home.

In early December a major media campaign was launched to encourage householders across the State to register for this service. The Queensland Government aims to provide ClimateSmart Home Services to 260,000 homes across the State over the next two years.

Kurwongbah residents who take advantage of the ClimateSmart Home Service will receive targeted advice on how to reduce energy use around the home. This will certainly help them to become more climate smart but it will also help them save money. It is estimated that households participating in the program will be able to save up to \$250 each year by reducing energy and water bills.

Residents are also being encouraged to install renewable energy systems. The Queensland Government Solar Bonus Scheme is encouraging the uptake of solar power by paying domestic and other small energy customers for the surplus electricity generated from roof-top solar photovoltaic systems that is exported to the Queensland grid.

The Home EnergyWise Kit, launched recently by the Department of Mines and Energy, has provided householders with energy efficiency information and do-it-yourself auditing tools to help identify energy use patterns in the home. It can provide advice to Kurwongbah families on how to take positive steps to reduce their energy consumption and lower their energy bills.

As well as initiatives that have been put in place to help Kurwongbah residents to reduce household energy use, the Queensland Government is also working to help residents in this area reduce their petrol consumption.

Public transport infrastructure has been improved and plans are underway for extension of the public transport network in this area. The Queensland Government has supported significant upgrades to Petrie Station, including a footbridge, lift access and expanded car parking, to make it easier for residents to use public transport. A new bus interchange has also been provided.

Upgrades to Petrie Station have included the addition of car park spaces, a footbridge and lift access. The high level of participation in all of these programs signals that Queenslanders are concerned about the impacts of climate change and serious about taking action to reduce carbon emissions. The Queensland Government is equally serious about providing Queenslanders with the support they need to make a difference.

Thinking of the future, the Government is funding the Petrie-Kippa Ring Public Transport Study which is investigating staged development of priority public transport for the Petrie – Kippa-Ring corridor.

Active transport solutions are also being encouraged. The Queensland Government has put in place cycle networks across South East Queensland to encourage residents to enjoy the health and environmental benefits of using bicycles instead of cars. The South East Queensland Cycle Network will create a system of linked bikeways stretching from Noosa, down the Sunshine Coast, through the Greater Brisbane and Ipswich regions, to the Gold Coast. Residents of Kurwongbah will benefit from the Narangba to Petrie cycleway connecting residential areas of Narangba, Kallangur, Dakabin and Petrie.

There is much that Queenslanders can do to become climate smart and the Queensland Government has put in place a range of different programs to support this important activity. The Government is investing in programs to help families reduce their energy use and public transport infrastructure to help reduce our dependence on private vehicles. The residents of Kurwongbah have many opportunities to access these programs and take action now to become climate smart.