

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 189

asked on Wednesday, 27 February 2008

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

QUESTION:

Will he outline the simple ideas which people can use to save electricity in their homes and businesses?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question. The Bligh Government is leading the charge with innovative solutions to help households and businesses save energy and money.

Queensland homes have changed over the past ten years. Today, around one third of Queensland homes have two or more air conditioners. Around 50% of homes have two or more refrigerators and 12% have at least one plasma television. They are all appliances that use a lot of electricity, and therefore householders need to be smarter about when and how they use electricity.

The Department of Mines and Energy is about to release home energywise kits for householders. They are self audit kits with tips for householders to save energy and save money.

They will be given to every household that receives a visit from a waterwise advisor.

Over the next few months, householders will also be able to borrow an energy DIY tool box from the local library.

The tool box will contain an appliance meter to help householders monitor the power their appliances use.

It's all about the smarter use of energy in the home.

The Bligh Government is also urging Queenslanders to make the most of \$100 million on offer in two green energy packages.

We want businesses and innovators to carefully examine the \$50 million Smart Energy Savings Fund and the \$50 million Renewable Energy Fund.

The smarter use of energy is vital in the Government's strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address climate change. Queensland is leading the way and we want medium to large businesses and innovators to climb on board.

We have set a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 60% below our 2000 levels by 2050.

We want businesses to boost their investment in energy saving projects and technologies and save money. We are putting up \$50 million to help them through our Smart Energy Savings Fund.

We will provide loans for up to 100% of the project's value or a grant that will cover up to half the project's capital value.

Our \$50 million Renewable Energy Fund is offering financial incentives to help fuel Queensland into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

We want clever companies to come forward with their ideas so that we can help turn their vision into reality.

The Renewable Energy Fund will help industry come up with innovative energy conservation solutions in areas such as geothermal, wind, solar, biomass, bagasse and other renewable energy sources.

We are looking at technologies that can generate at least 100 kilowatts, industrial power projects with a carbon-neutral emissions profile and innovations that can produce a reliable electricity supply and meet local energy supply needs.

We would like to see projects with the potential for wide scale commercial application that can boost supply to the electricity grid.

Funding can be in the form of a loan for up to 100% of the project's value or as a grant for up to half of the project's capital cost.

The Renewable Energy Fund will help Queensland secure its share of the national 20% renewable energy target by 2020.