Question on Notice
No. 362
Asked on 12 March 2008

MR BOMBOLAS asked the Premier (MS BLIGH) -

QUESTION:

Will the Premier outline the benefits Queenslanders can derive from the Solar Bonus Scheme?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government Solar Bonus Scheme is a feed-in-tariff that pays domestic energy customers for surplus electricity generated by their solar photovoltaic (PV) systems that is fed into the Queensland electricity grid.

The scheme will make solar power more affordable for Queenslanders and stimulate the solar power industry. It is estimated that the scheme could result in up to a 12 fold increase in grid connected solar power in Queensland to approximately 8,000 systems.

Customers signed-up to the scheme will be paid 44 cents per kilowatt hour for electricity fed into the grid when their solar system generates more electricity than the customer is using from the solar system. This is approximately three times the current domestic use tariff of 14 cents per kilowatt hour excluding GST.

Payments for electricity fed into the grid will be made to the customer through deductions from their total quarterly electricity bills. Installation of solar PV systems will also lower a customer's grid-connected electricity consumption as a result of the customer consuming a portion of their electricity directly from the solar system.

Along with South Australia, this is the most generous feed-in tariff in Australia, and for a 1 kilowatt solar system, combined with electricity purchase savings from the grid, could reduce the typical domestic electricity bill by approximately 25%.

It is anticipated the Scheme will be available from electricity retailers by mid-2008. The scheme will be reviewed after the first ten years or when 8 megawatts of solar PV capacity is installed, whichever occurs first.