Question on Notice
No. 516
Asked on Wednesday, 16 April 2008

QUESTION:

MR CHOI asked the Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation (Mr McNamara) —

With reference to the recent 'Unplug Day'—

Will he provide details of how Capalaba residents can save money on their power bills, as well as making a significant contribution to fight climate change?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Capalaba for his question about Queensland Unplugged Day and the ClimateSmart Living campaign.

There are many things that Capalaba residents, along with everybody throughout Queensland, can do to help fight climate change and reduce their power bills.

Queensland Unplugged Day, on 3 April, encouraged Queenslanders to make a simple change to reduce their energy use, save money on power bills and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by turning off non-essential appliances at the wall when they aren't in use.

Standby power accounts for four percent of the typical household power bill. That equates to around $61 each year, and I am sure Queensland householders will welcome the opportunity to save a few dollars and avoid using unnecessary greenhouse gas emissions.

Although Queensland Unplugged Day took place in April, it is never too late for Capalaba residents, and householders across the State, to take up this 'call to action'.

We want everyone in Queensland, whether they are at home or work, to turn off unnecessary standby power and keep turning it off.

Common items that use standby power include computers, televisions, stereos, video games, microwave ovens and mobile phone chargers.

Standby power keeps circuits warm so they are ready to operate at the push of a button.

Leaving appliances on standby if you aren't at home wastes energy, and costs money.

It also generates greenhouse gas emissions. Across the State, power consumed by household appliances on standby generates around 640,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year.

That’s the same as adding 170,000 cars to our roads.

Any step to reduce standby power is a step in the right direction and it’s easy to do.

If an appliance doesn’t need to be turned on all the time, switch it off.

It will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fight climate change.