Question on Notice
No. 591
Asked on Thursday, 17 April 2008

QUESTION:

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

With reference to residents of the Daintree River region who must rely on generator power and have been told that they cannot apply for the solar power energy system initiative (announced by the Premier on 5 March 2008) because they have to be connected to the electricity grid—

(1) As there are 600 generators polluting the iconic Daintree region, will he advise how the residents of the Daintree community can preserve The World Heritage Listed Daintree Rainforest by using generators?

(2) Will he make available a solar system program that would support residents in areas where mains power is not able to be accessed?

ANSWER:

(1) Daintree residents have access to the Australian Government Renewable Remote Power Generation Program which provides up to 50 percent of the cost of installing stand-alone renewable energy power systems in areas which are not connected to the electricity grid.

(2) The Queensland Solar Homes Program as announced on 5 March 2008 is a pilot program targeting five areas of Queensland where there is considerable population growth and which would benefit from installation of home-based solar energy systems.

These areas are the new regional council areas of Cairns, Rockhampton, Fraser Coast and Toowoomba as well as South East Queensland.

Residents of other areas of Queensland that do not have access to mains electricity are also able to access the Renewable Remote Power Generation Program, which my Agency administers as part of a co-operative relationship with the Australian Government.