

Question on Notice
No. 917
Asked on 14 June 2011

MR DICKSON asked the Premier and Minister for Reconstruction (MS BLIGH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Premier's letter to a Camp Hill resident (received in late May) thanking them for installing a solar water heater and suggesting they might like to display an enclosed sign bearing the Queensland Government logo to show they were 'doing the bright thing'—

- (1) How many of these signs have been produced?
- (2) What is the unit cost of each sign?
- (3) What is the total estimated cost including postage of this stunt?

ANSWER:

The Government is proud to encourage Queenslanders to make the switch to solar energy and save money on their electricity bills. For example, installing a solar hot water system can save the householder up to 25 per cent on their electricity bill.

Solar signs are part of the Government's long-running Bright Thing campaign to help Queensland double its solar energy use over five years and save Queenslanders money on their energy costs. The campaign is so successful that Queensland's solar power is projected to hit 500 megawatts in the next few months, three years ahead of schedule.

The signs are attached to a letter from me that is sent to all recipients of the Government's Solar Hot Water Rebate Scheme which provides \$1,000 or \$600 rebates to householders that replace their existing electric hot water system with a solar hot water system or heat pump.

Since payments commenced in July 2010, the Government has paid more than 19,900 rebates, equating to over \$14.8 million (as at 8 July 2011).

The recipient is under no obligation to display the sign. It is their choice. This is an extra initiative to help spread the word about solar as a significant energy saving alternative.

A total of 51,800 signs have been produced at a cost of just over a \$1 each.

The total cost of producing and distributing the signs to date is \$80,640.20. This represents 0.5 per cent of the cost of delivering the rebate scheme which is a small investment when you consider the results that have been achieved by thousands of Queenslanders who have taken up solar hot water and solar photovoltaic (PV) systems.