

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1145

asked on Thursday, 6 September 2018

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**MR C WHITING** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY (HON DR A LYNHAM)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise of recent Palaszczuk Government initiatives that will lead to reductions in power bills for the residents in the Bancroft Electorate?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government has already made great progress on its commitment to helping Queenslanders lower their power bills, and is delivering on its pledge to keep changes in electricity prices for a typical household below inflation on average over the next two years.

The government's decision to invest \$770 million to cover the Solar Bonus Scheme costs over three years has provided immediate price relief to consumers.

Retail electricity prices in South East Queensland have decreased with major retailers reducing prices by between 1.3 per cent and 3.8 per cent from 1 July 2018.

The Queensland Government has also stabilised electricity prices for regional Queensland customers with regulated prices reduced by 1.3 per cent in 2018–19.

Any kind of bill relief makes a difference, particularly to low-income households. That is why we will continue to deliver on a range of initiatives under our \$2 billion Affordable Energy Plan to deliver savings for Queenslanders.

Under this plan, households have already been provided with a \$50 per year asset ownership dividend towards their electricity costs. This was automatically credited to electricity bills from May–July 2018, and a further \$50 credit will be provided in 2019.

In 2018–19, the government will invest \$212 million to fund a range of energy rebates and concessions to support vulnerable customers. This includes \$196 million to deliver the \$341 per year electricity rebate to eligible pensioners, seniors, Health Care Card holders, veterans and asylum seekers, including those in the Bancroft electorate.

The government also provides a number of specialised medical concessions for people with conditions aggravated by changes in temperature and those requiring life support.

For customers experiencing an unforeseen household crisis, the Home Energy Emergency Assistance Scheme provides up to \$720 in support to assist with energy debt.

Other key government initiatives include a \$21 million program offering no interest loans and rebates for Queenslanders purchasing rooftop solar and battery systems, and, a \$4 million trial to assist landlords and tenants to share the value of installing solar systems.