

Question on Notice

No. 1134

Asked on Wednesday, 26 October 2022

MR P WEIR ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (HON M SCANLON)—

QUESTION:

With reference to solar panels—

Will the Minister advise (a) does the ability to recycle solar panels exist in Queensland, (b) if so, what support has the state government provided for this industry, and how many solar panels have been recycled to date and (c) what funding is available for future solar panel recycling in Queensland?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

Development of, and support for, extended producer responsibility and product stewardship initiatives are a commitment under the Queensland Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy. The development of an e-Products Action Plan is underway as part of this strategy. The Strategy guides the delivery of the \$1.1 billion Recycling and Jobs Fund – the largest investment in recycling in the state’s history.

At the recent Environment Ministers Meeting, the Queensland Government raised the issue of recycling solar panels, and all Ministers noted the Australian Government’s intention to develop a regulatory product stewardship scheme for solar panels and household electronics.

Under the Resource Recovery Industry Development Program, administered by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, the Queensland Government provided funding to Reclaim PV Recycling to establish a solar panel and battery recycling facility in Brisbane.

Additional programs have been available in Queensland to support industry development and for which solar panel recyclers were eligible to apply for including the Queensland Recycling Modernisation Fund and the Regional and Remote Recycling Modernisation Fund.

More information is available here:

<https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/industry/priority-industries/resource-recovery>