



MEDIA RELEASE

Phil Koperberg

NSW Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water

NEW LEGISLATION FOR WATER AND ENERGY REBATES

State Plan Priority E3: Cleaner air and progress on greenhouse gas reductions

Wednesday 20th June 2007

Legislation has been introduced into State Parliament overnight to pave the way for the creation of the new \$310 million Climate Change Fund to fund water and energy rebates for NSW families and businesses.

Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water Phil Koperberg said the Climate Change Fund Bill 2007 had been introduced into Parliament last night.

“Climate change is a critical issue for the future economic and environmental prosperity of NSW, Australia and the planet,” Mr Koperberg said.

“That’s why we’re delivering on our commitment to establish a fund to pay rebates to families and businesses that want to do their bit to reduce carbon emissions.

“And yesterday’s State Budget included the first allotment of funding – \$70 million – to fund the first year of the five year program.”

The Climate Change Fund is a central plank of the Government’s greenhouse strategy and includes rebates of:

- § **Up to \$1500 for an approved rainwater tank plumbed in to a toilet and/or washing machine from 1 July 2007;**
- § **Up to \$1200 for an approved solar hot water system from 1 January 2008;**
- § **Up to \$300 to convert from electric to an approved gas hot water system from 1 October 2007;**
- § **Up to \$300 to install energy efficient home insulation from 1 October 2007.**

Mr Koperberg said the Climate Change Fund also set aside \$100m for new stormwater harvesting projects.

“With the heavy rain we’ve seen over the past couple of weeks the community is very aware of how important it is to do more to capture this resource – we’ll invest \$100 million in projects to harvest stormwater over the next five years,” he said.

The Climate Change Fund will also allocate funding for:

- § **A \$100 million *Recycling and Stormwater Harvesting Program* to help the private sector complete the Sydney Recycled Water Grid;**

- § A \$40 million *Renewable Energy Development Program* for pilot and demonstration projects like solar and geothermal power stations;
- § A \$30 million *Public Facilities Fund* to help public and community buildings (like schools, hospitals, libraries and playing fields) save energy and water;
- § A \$20 million *Energy Efficient Schools Program* to upgrade lighting at around 200 high schools, and provide grants to innovative solar and alternative energy projects devised by students;
- § A \$20 million *Schools Rainwater Tank* program to install a tank in every NSW Government school that doesn't have one for non-drinking uses – including up to \$5 million for a *Schools Waterfix* program.

“The fund will stimulate the next generation of investment in renewable electricity generation, water recycling and stormwater harvesting, protecting our environment and helping us tackle climate change,” Mr Koperberg said.

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