



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TONY WINDSOR MP
MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND

Shop 5
259 Peel Street
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

All Mail: PO Box 963
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

Ph: (02) 6761 3080
Toll Free: 1300 301 839
Fax: (02) 6761 3380
e-mail: Tony.Windsor.MP@aph.gov.au

MEDIA RELEASE

10 June 2009

Solar rebate scheme ending “sloppy”

The handling of the ending of the Solar Homes and Communities Plan (SHCP) from midnight last night (Tuesday) has been described as ‘sloppy’ by the Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor.

The ceasing of the SHCP, which provided rebates of up to \$8,000 for the installation of solar photovoltaic systems was announced in a joint statement by the Environment Minister, Peter Garrett and the Minister for Climate Change and Water, Penny Wong, on Tuesday morning with completed applications due by midnight Tuesday night.

Mr Windsor said the decision to immediately discontinue the SHCP has created enormous uncertainty for the many businesses and individuals who have recently applied for assistance or were finalising their applications for assistance to install photovoltaic systems in the belief that the Plan would operate until 30 June, 2009.

“According to information updated on Tuesday morning on the website of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, to be eligible for assessment under the SHCP guidelines, completed applications must have been sent to the Solar Homes and Communities Plan Manager by midnight on Tuesday 9 June 2009.

“It is very disappointing that whilst the Federal Government is encouraging people to move to renewable energy it has removed without warning one of the central planks designed to help businesses and individuals to switch to solar energy, leaving those who have submitted applications under the SHCP in recent days in doubt as to what assistance, if any, they will receive and those working towards having their applications in by June 30 left out completely.

“Whilst it has been announced the SHCP will be replaced immediately with the Solar Credits scheme, I would strongly encourage the Government to reinstate the original closure date of 30 June, 2009 so that those applicants who have been planning to install photovoltaic systems in the good faith that they would receive the rebate of up to \$8,000 they have been promised via this Program are not burdened with additional costs and delays which the details and complexities of the new scheme may present.

“I will be asking Ministers Wong and Garrett to reconsider their decision to close the Scheme early to enable those already in the process not to be disadvantaged.

“I can understand that as a result of the handling of the ending of this scheme that people will feel they have had the rug pulled out from under them.

“It has been sloppy,” Mr Windsor said.

For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080 or 0427 66 8868