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Guy Barnett, Minister for Energy

Sarah Courtney, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Energy help for our farmers

Tasmanian farmers are being helped to lock in lower energy costs thanks to a range of initiatives introduced by the Hodgman Liberal Government.

We understand that keeping energy costs as low as possible is critical for farmers trying to run a competitive business.

That's why we are providing \$750,000 for our On-farm Energy and Irrigation Audit Program to help Tasmanian farmers save money.

The grants allow farmers to engage professionals to audit their farm energy use, infrastructure and systems to identify savings possibly in the thousands.

Applications are now open for the Program. Information is available from the Department of State Growth website and through Business Tasmania on 1800 440 026.

We have also commenced a review of the Solar Feed-in Tariff, which will determine a suitable reward to those who have installed, or are looking to install solar in Tasmania, including farmers.

A review into the current structure of irrigation electricity tariffs is underway to ensure they are more suitable to modern irrigation enterprises, while offering a competitive advantage to Tasmanians.

Our government has also initiated the Farm Energy Advocate service, which aims to help farmers better manage their energy and usage costs.

This service is now available through Aurora Energy with details available through Aurora's website or by calling the Farm Energy Advocate Service directly on 1300 10 FARM (3276).

We have a target to ensure Tasmania has the lowest regulated electricity prices in the country by 2022, and to make Tasmania renewable energy self-sufficient with an additional 1,000 gigawatt hours of on-island renewable energy by 2022.

These initiatives will help our farmers stay competitive and ahead of the game when it comes to on-farm energy, and will support the Government's plan to grow the value of the agricultural sector to \$10 billion a year by 2050.