



MEDIA RELEASE

Supporting increased use of solar energy

05 February 2018

Guy Barnett, Minister for Energy

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will support increased use of solar energy as part of our target to make Tasmania 100 per cent energy self-sufficient by 2022.

Since Labor announced a cut of the solar feed-in tariff in 2013, there has been significant concern in the community about whether the new rates properly incentivise solar. In the first six months upon our re-election, we will review and reshape the current solar Feed-in Tariffs to ensure there is a proper reward for households and businesses generating solar energy.

Currently, there are two Feed-in Tariff rates, with the higher 'grandfathered' rate due to expire at the end of 2018.

The aim of the review will be to determine a single Feed-in Tariff for the future that will both reward those already on solar and encourage even more people to make the switch. The new arrangements which result from the review will be in place by 1 January 2019.

We know that power bills are a big issue for many households around the state,

and this will be vital in encouraging even more investment in solar while rewarding those who have already invested with lower power prices.

We will also deliver a \$300,000 Community Solar and Energy Efficiency package which will deliver grants for community organisations and sporting clubs around the state to install more efficient energy options, such as solar.

Tasmanian community organisations and sporting clubs are the lifeblood of so many towns and communities right around the state, and this funding will make a real difference by allowing them to become more energy self-sufficient while dramatically reducing their power bills and ongoing energy costs.

We have already announced last week a \$6.25 million package to reduce energy costs for farmers, including assistance to install solar energy through the Agri-Growth Concession loan scheme.

These policies are a great outcome for people all across the state and reaffirms our commitment to putting Tasmania first when considering our energy requirements for the future.

They will complement our game-changing announcement yesterday to break away from mainland energy prices and will be vital in achieving our ambitious targets for Tasmania to have the lowest regulated electricity prices in the country and to become 100 per cent self-sufficient in renewable energy by 2022.

The policy document can be found here: <http://bit.ly/TasmaniaFirstEnergy>
