

# Delivering effective energy policy outcomes

Powerlink transmission line, Glasshouse Mountains

The Queensland Government has delivered a range of measures that have stabilised electricity prices and improved the functioning of the market.

## Making electricity more affordable

### Stabilising electricity prices

The Queensland Government has implemented a range of policies and programs to reduce pressure on Queensland's electricity consumers.

In 2015, we directed Queensland's network businesses not to challenge the Australian Energy Regulator's decision to reduce network revenues, which placed electricity prices on a more stable trajectory.

Partly due to this action, average electricity prices for households have increased by only 1.2 per cent per annum over the previous two years.

### Deregulating the South East Queensland electricity market

On 1 July 2016, the South East Queensland retail electricity market was deregulated. By shopping around, a typical customer can save \$100–\$400 per annum on their electricity bill.

To support price deregulation, we are delivering the Electricity Consumer Education Campaign in South East Queensland, partnering with community groups to help customers choose the best product for them.

### Extending the electricity rebate

The Government is providing \$170.1 million over four years to extend the Electricity Rebate to federal Health Care Card holders and asylum seekers—providing support to around 160 000 extra low-income families.

The rebate provides approximately \$330 per eligible customer, equating to around 20 per cent of a typical annual electricity bill in Queensland.

### Uniform Tariff Policy

The costs of delivering electricity in regional Queensland are much higher than in the south-east corner.

In recognition of this, the Government remains committed to the Uniform Tariff Policy, providing over \$1 billion between 2015–16 and 2016–17 to support regional Queensland customers through this policy.

Without the Uniform Tariff Policy, it is estimated regional customers would pay 30–140 per cent more for their electricity than they currently do.

### Regional Business Assistance Package

The Government is providing \$10 million over two years to implement a package of support for regional business and agricultural customers to deliver better access to digital metering, more information about tariff options, and co-contributions to help customers invest in equipment changes to manage bill impacts.

The package will deliver better outcomes for regional businesses and promote renewable energy and storage options.





Birdsville geothermal

## Kickstarting the clean energy transition

### Accelerating clean energy investment

Since January 2016, Queensland has seen an unprecedented level of renewable energy investment activity, with 17 large-scale projects either commencing construction or finalising commercial arrangements.

When complete, these projects will deliver almost 1200 megawatts of clean power to the state, more than doubling Queensland's current renewable energy supply.

This will provide the annual energy needs for some 520 000 houses. These projects will yield strong benefits to the Queensland economy, delivering \$2.2 billion of investment and 2200 new jobs.

### Implementing the Solar 150 initiative

In 2015, the Queensland Government committed to undertaking a pilot 40 megawatt reverse auction to incentivise large-scale renewable energy projects and help drive down technology costs. We almost quadrupled this commitment and, in doing so, have created a stronger environment for investment and jobs.

The four projects supported under the Solar 150 program have reached financial close and have started, or will soon start, construction.

### Solar for public housing

We are delivering a range of initiatives to increase the use of solar PV in line with meeting our target of 3000 megawatts by 2020, including:

- ▶ a trial of solar PV on public housing—this initiative will deliver 3–6 megawatts of solar on 2000–4000 Government-owned, detached houses
- ▶ the installation of solar PV on Government buildings in the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council—this initiative will reduce the amount of high-cost diesel fuel required to power the township, with savings to be shared with public housing tenants
- ▶ trials of new solar business models for tenants located in the Woodridge, Cairns and Rockhampton Housing Service Centre areas—these initiatives will provide opportunities for tenants to reduce their electricity bills by receiving both grid and solar power from their electricity retailer.

### Advancing Clean Energy Schools

The Queensland Government's Advancing Clean Energy Schools program will investigate innovative ways to use solar and energy efficiency to reduce energy costs across Queensland state schools.

