

9 October 2008

## **GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL MOVES INTO CANBERRA**

The opening of the first Canberra office of the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) is a demonstration of the ACT's leadership on and commitment to sustainable living, Chief Minister and Minister for the Environment, Water and Climate Change Jon Stanhope said.

"Canberra is already home to a number of Green Star certified buildings – including the first Five Star certified building in Australia, at Brindabella Park," Mr Stanhope said. "I believe the new GBCA office in Canberra will encourage more organisations to pursue sustainable development and design in the construction of new buildings."

Mr Stanhope said a re-elected Labor Government will invest \$75,000 in a study to be undertaken with the Property Council and the Green Building Council, to look at refurbishing existing buildings to achieve a Green Star rating. Labor will also consult with property owners and tenants on the feasibility of introducing energy efficiency audits of private rental properties.

"Labor is committed to making it easier for households, businesses and Government agencies to make more sustainable choices every day.

"We will help more Canberrans live sustainably at home by investing \$9 million in new rebates for energy-efficient appliances and insulation, \$1.5 million for an improved solar hot water rebate and \$1.5 million in new rebates for water-efficient washing machines.

"These commitments are in addition to our \$20 million investment in retrofitting all public housing to be more energy and water-efficient, and investment in making our schools carbon neutral.

"We are encouraging sustainability in suburban planning and design by requiring all new homes to have a five-star energy rating. In partnership with the CSIRO Labor is developing a suburban sustainability showcase at Eastlake.

"A re-elected Labor Government will continue our strong commitment to and leadership on helping Canberrans to live more sustainably," Mr Stanhope said.

Mr Stanhope presented GBCA membership certificates to the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn and Mallesons Stephens Jaques. The Archdiocese is the first church organisation in Australia to take up membership of the Council.

Statement Ends

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