

12 October 2008

ACT LABOR TO OFFER DISCOUNTED SOLAR PANELS TO CANBERRA'S HOUSEHOLDS

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will help Canberra householders install solar panels at a significantly discounted rate.

The pilot ACT Solar Panel Scheme will be a practical way to help householders do their bit for climate change and is another in a series of measures introduced by the ACT Labor Government to help every member of our community reduce their carbon footprint.

"Canberra is the nation's capital and now ACT Labor will make Canberra Australia's solar capital," Deputy Chief Minister Katy Gallagher said as she announced the new Solar Panel Scheme today at GetUp's Climate Change Torch event in Canberra.

"The ACT Labor Government has lead the way in encouraging Canberrans to go solar. We have the nation's most generous feed-in tariff laws, we are taking the next steps to a major solar farm in the ACT and we have introduced a range of rebates to get more people using solar hot water services, water tanks and energy efficient appliances.

"Now, with the new Solar Panel Scheme we will provide another practical measure to make solar power an accessible and affordable option for Canberra households," Ms Gallagher said.

Under the ACT Solar Panel Scheme, the ACT Government through its Government purchasing agency Procurement Solutions will seek expressions of interest from Canberra householders who wish to install a solar panel.

Based on the expressions of interest from householders, Procurement Solutions will seek a competitive tender from suppliers and installers to install the panels in the ACT.

"By making this bulk purchase option available, we anticipate we could reduce the costs for those householders eligible for the Australian Government's subsidy for solar panels (households earning less than \$100,000 a year) to as low as \$500." Ms Gallagher said.

The panels usually cost over \$12,000.

Panels not taken up by householders will be installed in ACT public buildings such as Canberra's schools.

A similar scheme initiated by the Queensland Government in March this year has been an overwhelming success with more orders from Queensland householders than original expressions of interest. The successful tenderer offered the panels to householders who applied to the Queensland Government at \$8,125 compared to the usual price of more than \$12,000.

Media release

Demand for the panels has been so strong that the successful supplier has now offered to supply solar panels to all Queensland households at the discounted price.

Statement Ends

Media Contact:

Angie Drake **6205 0139** **0408 092 016** angie.drake@act.gov.au
(Deputy Chief Minister's Office)

Campaign Media Release 081/08