

17 October 2008

ACT LABOR – MAKING CANBERRA THE SOLAR CITY

Canberra is set to become one of the world's leading solar cities, if ACT Labor is re-elected this Saturday.

"ACT Labor is making Canberra the solar capital of Australia," Chief Minister and Minister for Environment, Water and Climate Change Jon Stanhope said.

"Among the suite of measures a re-elected ACT Labor Government will pursue are:

- legislating for solar rights;
- requiring passive solar orientation of stand-alone blocks in new estates;
- the bulk-purchase of solar panels, with the savings to be passed on to householders installing microgeneration plants;
- committing \$30 million for the construction of a solar power plant capable of powering at least 10,000 Canberra homes;
- installing solar panels on every public school;
- expanding the Solar Hot Water System rebate program, to provide up to \$1000 to households replacing an electric hot water storage system with a solar hot water system;
- engaging with industry to review the sub-division solar rating tool to allow for a better melding of house design and block orientation; and
- consulting with industry to alter the current solar access rules in the Territory Plan to ensure a better mechanism for measuring energy gain rather than just a simple amount of sunlight required.

"ACT Labor is the only Party contesting this week's election that has significant runs on the board when it comes to solar initiatives," Mr Stanhope said.

"Labor's policies are about doing good, not just feeling good.

"Through leadership we can make a real difference in the battle against climate change." Mr Stanhope said.

ACT Labor's election commitments build on work already done by Labor to make Canberra the solar capital, including:

- introducing the nation's most generous feed-in tariff, which pays Canberrans 3.88 times the retail price of electricity for the clean energy they feed back into the grid;
- making Green Power the product of first choice for all new electricity customers, turning an opt-in system into an opt-out system;
- a \$1 million Energy Efficiency Fund for government building retrofits;

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- a Renewable Energy Showcase to improve the community's understanding of renewable energy technology;
- purchasing 23 per cent of Government electricity as Green Power; and
- committing \$2.5 million to the Climate Change Adaptation Research Centre at the Australian National University.

Statement Ends

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Campaign Media Release 102/08