



Katy Gallagher MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

MINISTER FOR HEALTH

MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO

MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 12.01AM THURSDAY JULY 14, 2011

MR29CM

FEED-IN TARIFF SCHEME CLOSES

Acting Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Katy Gallagher, announced that the recently re-opened Feed-in Tariff scheme had been closed at midnight on 13 July 2011.

The scheme was re-opened on 12 July 2011 following amendments to the *Electricity Feed-in (Renewal Energy Premium) Act 2008* by the ACT Greens and Liberals. The amendments combined the Micro and Medium Scale Generation capacity with a combined cap of 30 MW. That cap has now effectively been reached.

“The Government warned against re-opening the Scheme and cautioned that it would further overheat a volatile market and would provide no certainty of a continuing market to industry.

“The fact that the combined cap was reached within two days proves the point beyond any doubt.

“The Greens and the Liberals have simply created false hopes in the community and have manifestly failed to deliver the certainty to industry they claimed to be seeking,” said Ms Gallagher.

The Government originally closed the Micro Generator (up to 30kW) category of the scheme on 31 May 2011 when it exceeded its statutory cap. In closing the category the Government made an undertaking that households who had entered into formal contracts in good faith up until that time could still access the Scheme so as not to be disadvantaged.

The closure of the Scheme last night enables this commitment to be met and eligible households still have until 29 July 2011 to lodge their Special Connection Application with ActewAGL Distribution .

This arrangement does not apply to the re-opened Scheme.

The Government advised at the re-opening of the scheme that there would be no capacity for over-subscription. Therefore no further applications can be accepted, even if a valid contract has been signed.

“The Greens and the Liberals have achieved nothing but chaos. The Government warned quite clearly that re-opening the scheme did not offer transition, rather simply offered another gallop towards a new cap.

“It has proven to be a very fast gallop that has not provided the ‘softer landing’ for local solar industry promised by Mr Rattenbury.

“The whole episode has demonstrated the folly of making policy on the run,” said Ms Gallagher.

Statement Ends

Date: 14 July 2011

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