



Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen
Minister for Public Works and Procurement

Our Ref: MN03544-2023

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000
By email: clerksoffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 27 March 2023 regarding Parliamentary Petition No. 3817-22 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 28 March 2023 titled 'Solar panels in all homes and businesses by 2040'.

The Queensland Government wholeheartedly supports the uptake of renewable energy in Queensland. It has committed to a 50% Renewable Energy Target by 2030. Through the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan (the Plan), the government also announced two new ambitious Renewable Energy Targets — 70% by 2032 and 80% by 2035.

Petitioners may be aware that Queensland has the highest rate of household rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) installations in Australia. Almost 1 in 3 homes has installed a solar PV system. As part of the Plan, the government is also implementing actions to continue to deliver clean, reliable, and affordable energy for households and businesses, as well as continuing to support the further uptake and effective integration of customer energy resources, like rooftop solar, into the electricity system.

The Queensland Government is also committed to reducing emissions in the built environment, including supporting household rooftop solar PV energy systems as part of energy efficient housing standards. In June 2022, the Queensland Government amended legislation to ensure developer covenants and body corporate by-laws could not inhibit or restrict the installation of solar hot water systems or solar panels, based solely on aesthetics. However, we understand there are instances where it is not possible to install a rooftop solar PV system, for example, where shadowing from trees or neighbouring buildings would restrict the system output. Situations such as this would therefore render the introduction of mandatory requirements impractical.

I am a strong advocate for the inclusion of *Modern Homes standards* in the *National Construction Code (NCC) 2022*, as it promotes the use of solar PV for new houses and apartments with the introduction of a 'whole-of-home' requirement for assessing its predicted energy budget. This is part of the updated residential energy efficiency standards. The whole-of-home requirement covers major appliances (e.g. air-conditioning, hot water system, lighting and any pool/spa pump) and inclusion of on-site solar PV. It is anticipated that the whole-of-home requirement will result in an increase in the take-up of solar PV on new dwellings.

Many Queensland businesses are also enjoying the benefits of solar, after choosing to install a PV energy system. They are reaping the rewards of generating renewable energy, including:

- reduced electricity costs – supporting the bottom line
- reduced environmental footprint – generating their own renewable energy while the sun is shining
- possible marketing advantages – increased business use of renewable energy.

I hope this information answers the enquiry from the petitioners and I thank the petitioners for their interest in Queensland's energy and low emissions future.

Yours sincerely



Mick de Brenni MP
Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen
Minister for Public Works and Procurement