



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

Our Ref: MN02075-2023  
Your Ref: A1063806

1 William Street  
Brisbane Queensland  
GPO Box 2457 Brisbane  
Queensland 4001 Australia  
Telephone +617 3719 7270  
E: epw@ministerial.qld.gov.au

23 March 2023

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 February 2023 regarding Parliamentary Petition No. 3842-22 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 21 February 2023 titled 'Mandate solar panels and batteries for all freestanding houses'.

The Queensland Government continues to support the uptake of renewable energy in Queensland and, as you may be aware, has committed to a 50% Renewable Energy Target by 2030. Under its recently released Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan (the Plan), the government announced two new Renewable Energy Targets — 70% by 2032 and 80% by 2035.

Queensland already has the highest rate of household rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) installations in Australia, with around 1 in 3 homes having a solar PV system. As part of the Plan, the government is implementing actions to continue to deliver clean, reliable and affordable energy for households and businesses and support the further uptake and effective integration of customer energy resources, like rooftop solar, into the electricity system.

As you are aware, the Queensland Government is 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. In addition, there are some instances where it is not possible to install a rooftop solar PV system, therefore rendering the introduction of mandatory requirements impractical. For example, where shadowing from trees or neighbouring buildings would restrict the system output.

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 as 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 increase the take-up of solar PV on new dwellings.

For information, since 2010 the *Queensland Development Code Mandatory Part 4.1–Sustainable Buildings* has contained minimum energy efficiency standards for new houses. Where a solar PV system is installed on a new house, a 1-star optional credit is available towards the minimum 6-star housing standard for its building shell.

I hope this information answers the enquiry from the petitioners and I thank the Principal Petitioner, Mr Tony Magrathea, and the other petitioners for their interest in Queensland's energy and low emissions future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mick de Brenni', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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