

# A SUSTAINABLE NATION



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The Australian Government is investing in a sustainable nation with additional funding of over \$7 billion over five years since the 2008–09 Federal Budget. The government will provide rebates and other initiatives to help Australians take practical steps in their own homes, supporting jobs and helping build a low pollution future.

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## Energy Efficient Homes

*Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts*

The Energy Efficient Homes Package provides over \$4.0 billion over four years to assist Australians reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and encourage the rollout of energy efficient technologies. Under this package, householders can receive increased rebates for solar and heat pump hot water systems and assistance for the installation of insulation. The package is part of the government's Nation Building – Economic Stimulus Plan.

### Homeowner Insulation Program

- The Australian Government will invest \$2.8 billion over two and half years to allow for the purchase and installation of ceiling insulation in homes.
- There is an estimated 2.2 million homes in Australia that are owner-occupied and currently without insulation. Insulation is one of the most cost-effective ways to improve a home's energy efficiency.
- Homeowners could save approximately \$200 a year on their energy bills and improve the comfort and value of their homes.

### Low Emission Assistance Plan for Renters

- Recognising that many of Australia's most vulnerable households are renters who do not own their own home, the government has committed \$637.4 million over two and a half years to increase the rebate to owners of private sector rental homes towards the cost of installing insulation.
- Landlords will be eligible for rebates of up to \$1000 to install insulation in their rental properties.
- It is estimated that 700,000 rented homes in Australia will benefit from this program and the government's previously announced \$150.0 million Low Emission Plan for Renters.

### Solar Hot Water Rebates

- As part of modernising Australian homes, the government has delivered \$514.4 million to increase the solar hot water rebate from \$1,000 to \$1,600.
- The rebate will help households move from old, greenhouse intensive electric systems to solar hot water.
- This increased rebate is not means-tested and ensures that practical ways to reduce energy and save on energy bills are available to as many Australians as possible.
- This measure will build upon the previous \$252.2 million Solar Hot Water Rebate program.

### Solar Homes and Communities Plan

#### *Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage, and the Arts*

Making the most of our renewable energy sources is essential for a sustainable future. The Solar Homes and Communities Plan demonstrates the Australian Government's commitment to a greener future. This program provides incentives for eligible households to switch on to renewable energy.

- The continuing demand from Australian households for support for the installation of solar panels has been met with \$339.7 million of funding, since the 2008-09 Budget, helping provide a smooth transition to Solar Credits under the Renewable Energy Target in 2009.
- The plan delivers rebates for the installation of solar power panels in homes.
- For community buildings, grants for up to half the cost of a 2 kilowatt system are available.

### Reshaping Green Loans

#### *Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts*

The reshaped Green Loans package will complement the Energy Efficient Homes and Solar Homes and Communities Packages by providing households with access to the range of energy efficient initiatives, information and advice.

- The package will offer home assessments by qualified assessors to households, providing sound and practical advice on energy efficiency, the Energy Efficient Homes and Solar Homes initiatives as well as access to subsidised loans for identified household improvements through participating financial institutions.

## Clean Energy Initiative

*Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism*

*Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research*

The Australian Government is committing funding of \$4.5 billion to the Clean Energy Initiative that will support leading edge technology, research and development to assist Australia's transition to a lower emission path.

### Renewables Australia

- The Australian Government will provide \$465 million to create a new, independent body, Renewables Australia.
- Renewables Australia will support leading-edge renewable technology research, development and demonstration in Australia, incorporating \$365 million from the Renewable Energy Fund, and an additional \$100 million to be provided in the 2009–10 Budget.
- This investment will support the demonstration of renewable technologies to market at acceptable cost, and support growth in skills and capacity for domestic and international markets.

### Solar Flagships Program

- The Australian Government will contribute \$1.5 billion in the Solar Flagships Program which will set a target to create an additional 1000 megawatts of solar power generation capacity in Australia.
- The program will position Australia to be a world leader in solar power generation capacity, incorporating \$135 million from the Renewable Energy Fund.

### Carbon Capture and Storage Flagships Program

- The Australian Government will contribute \$2.4 billion towards the Carbon Capture and Storage Flagships Program, including \$425 million in existing funding.
- This program complements the Australian Government's National Low Emissions Coal Initiative and the creation of the Global Carbon Capture and Storage Initiative.
- Through this program, the Australian Government will ensure Australia continues to be a world leader in the development of this technology, by supporting the demonstration of large, industrial scale projects in Australia.

## National Energy Efficiency Initiative

### *Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts*

- The government will provide up to \$100 million in 2009-10 for the National Energy Efficiency Initiative to develop an innovative smart-grid energy network.
- Combining broadband with intelligent grid technology and smart meters in homes, this demonstration project will enable greater energy efficiency and better integration of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power.
- Funding will be provided to a consortium of state and local government, public and private energy companies and other private sector investors for the large scale demonstration of integrated smart grid technologies.

## Climate Change Action Fund - additional funding and re-phasing

### *Various departments*

- In order to better inform and position our businesses, industries and community organisations for the impacts of a low carbon economy, the government will provide funding of \$2.75 billion, including an additional \$300.0 million in this Budget, to the Climate Change Action Fund under the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.
- In advance of the introduction of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme, \$200.0 million has been committed in 2009-10 to support businesses and community sector organisations to take early action in identifying energy efficiency opportunities and to invest in energy improvements.
- Funding of \$2.5 million in 2008-09 will support program design activities in the Department of Climate Change and the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.

## The Australian Carbon Trust: supporting emissions reductions through energy efficiency

### *Department of Climate Change*

The government will commit \$75.8 million over 5 years to establish the Australian Carbon Trust to support households and businesses to engage on climate change, particularly through cutting energy use.

As part of the Australian Carbon Trust, the government will:

- allocate \$25.8 million over 5 years to establish the Energy Efficiency Savings Pledge Fund to help households and small businesses understand the greenhouse gas benefits and dollar savings to be gained from cutting energy use.
- inject \$50 million to an Energy Efficiency Trust that will provide seed funding to promote and demonstrate innovative energy efficiency activities for commercial businesses and other organisations.

## Green ICT – Information and Communication Technology in Government

### *Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts*

### *Department of Finance and Deregulation*

The Australian Government is committed to pursuing the same level of change in its own operations as it is seeking to implement in the broader community through its various climate change initiatives. Given that ICT is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, in partnership with the Department of Finance and Deregulation, is developing a Whole-of-Government ICT Sustainability Plan. The plan will:

- identify ways of improving ICT environmental performance across government departments, particularly in terms of energy efficiency;
- develop the standards that should be applied in government purchasing of ICT products and services; and
- consider the contribution that ICT can make more broadly to achieving more sustainable practices in the community.

Large government agencies will develop an ICT energy efficiency plan, which will include a requirement to undertake periodic independent ICT energy assessments.

The Australian Government has committed \$1.2 million over four years to support this initiative and ensure greener business standards in its operations.

## Skills for the Carbon Challenge

### *Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations*

- The Skills for the Carbon Challenge initiative provides \$26.9 million over four years to support the take up of skills for sustainability and provides national leadership in building the capacity of the tertiary education sector to supply the skills needed to implement Government climate change mitigation and adaption strategies.

## National Return and Disposal of Unwanted Medicines

### *Department of Health and Ageing*

- The government will provide funding of \$10.4 million over five years (including \$1.8 million in 2008–09) to ensure approximately 400 tonnes of unwanted medicines are destroyed in a safe and environmentally friendly manner.
- Significant environmental and health hazards can be posed through inappropriate disposal of unwanted medicines through the sewerage and landfill.
- This measure delivers public health benefits by removing the risk of unwanted medicines to the community while minimising impacts on the environment.

## Continuation of Defence Environmental Programs and Works

### *Department of Defence*

The government has reaffirmed its commitment to Defence Environmental Programs and Works. Defence plans to spend some \$71.4 million on environmental and related works in 2009–10.

The programs to be continued include:

- Green Buildings Implementation Program (\$11.0 million)
- Environmental Works (\$16.4 million)
- Heritage Management Program (\$4.1 million)
- Contaminated Sites Management and Pollution Prevention Program (\$20.0 million)
- Environmental Management System Program (\$3.3 million)
- Environmental Monitoring (\$3.7 million)
- Assessments and Approvals (\$4.6 million)
- Climate Change Implementation Program (\$4.0 million)
- Fisheries Protection Survey and Charting Project (\$4.3 million)