



Highlights

Renewable energy and the environment

In 2009–10 the Government will continue to invest in a broad range of initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to climate change, and help households and businesses minimise their energy costs.

Climate Change Strategy

- \$15 million over four years for the ClimateSmart Business Service to assist small-to-medium size Queensland businesses to save energy and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions in the lead up to the introduction of a Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.
- \$8 million over four years to increase the energy efficiency of existing government buildings.
- \$4.5 million over four years for the Rural Water Use Efficiency program
- \$15.6 million over five years to help build community resilience to extreme weather events. Key initiatives include:
 - \$7.7 million over five years to improve the ability of businesses to cope with disasters and improve evacuation preparedness in communities
 - \$3.4 million over three years to build major equipment warehouses in Brisbane and Townsville, and to purchase additional stock for existing warehouses in Cairns, Rockhampton, Toowoomba and Beenleigh to help the State Emergency Service respond to large-scale emergencies and disasters

Renewable energy

The Government will continue to support the development of renewable and low emissions technologies. Through the Queensland Renewable Energy Fund the Government will fund key initiatives including:

- \$4.3 million to Ergon Energy for the new Birdsville Geothermal Power Station to replace the existing plant. The new station will have more efficient equipment, producing more energy from the same resources

Queensland Solar Hot Water Program

The Government is helping Queenslanders reduce their carbon footprint and the cost of their energy bills. Beginning in 2009-10, the Queensland Solar Hot Water Program will provide up to 200,000 affordable solar hot water or heat pump systems to be installed over the next three

years. The Program will offer fully installed, greenhouse-efficient hot water systems for \$100 to eligible Queensland pensioners and low income earners, and \$500 to other eligible Queensland homeowners. This Program will help Queenslanders save money and the environment.



- \$9 million for the Mackay Sugar Cogeneration project, replacing the old plant and streamlining storage practices
- \$7.5 million to the CSIRO for SolarGas One, the world's first multi-tower array system using SolarGas technology
- \$5 million for the Coastal Geothermal Energy Initiative to identify possible sources of hot rocks for geothermal energy close to existing electricity transmission lines.

Funds totalling \$47.7 million will be provided to ENERGEX and Ergon Energy to initiate a range of demand management and energy conservation measures to reduce peak demand on Queensland's electricity infrastructure.

The Government has also provided \$5 million to Ergon Energy to trial a clean energy program in Queensland's remote and isolated communities. This program will reduce the cost of supplying energy to these communities, as well as reduce greenhouse gas emissions and electricity bills. For example, instead of extending distribution or operating diesel generators, funds could purchase stand alone solar or wind generation.

Reef protection

The Government is committed to protecting our State's environmental assets and has developed the Great Barrier Reef Protection Package. This aims to mitigate the impact of key pollutants on reef water quality by reducing the discharge of nutrients,

sediments and pesticides by 50% within four years. To reach this target, the Government will invest \$50 million over five years to implement a range of legislative measures to prevent broad-scale reef pollution.