



# The Hon Chris Hartcher

## Minister for Resources and Energy

### Special Minister of State

### Minister for the Central Coast

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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Thursday 7 July 2011

### **SOLAR INDUSTRY CALLING FOR MORE SUBSIDIES**

Certain solar industry groups are calling on NSW households to subsidise yet another solar rebate scheme, Energy Minister Chris Hartcher said today.

Following the successful Solar Summit at Newcastle on 1 July, the NSW Government is currently discussing with IPART the timeframe for their recommendations to determine a future fair value price for household generated solar energy.

Under the terms and conditions to be set for the IPART review, the independent determination must:

- Not result in any increase in electricity prices;
- Not result in any additional funding from the NSW State Government Budget;
- Be administratively simple and take into account any impacts on retailer operations; and
- Support a competitive electricity market in NSW.

“Certain groups, including the Australian Solar Energy Society (AuSES) and Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) continue to seek Government subsidies and have their hands out for more – with little consideration given to the households that would be hit with higher electricity bills. It is important that any future price must not disadvantage those who can least afford it through higher electricity costs,” Mr Hartcher said.

“For this reason, the NSW Government will be consulting closely with the main industry body, the Clean Energy Council, and will take into account feedback from the Summit and broader community consultation in investigating a fair value.”

Mr Hartcher said the NSW Government made the deliberate decision - against the wishes of AuSES - to allow an additional 40,000 applicants entry under the Solar Bonus Scheme to provide ongoing income and certainty for the industry.

“At the current rate of installation, the Government is advised it will take up to four months to connect the additional 40,000 applicants still awaiting installation to reach Scheme capacity.

“This is an industry built on the back of Government subsidies but it is time to end the boom and bust cycle for solar industry workers and provide a sustainable and predictable future going forward,” Mr Hartcher said.

Approximately 1/3 of the recent IPART price determination has been attributed to poorly-managed renewable energy policies and government subsidies.