



The Hon Chris Hartcher

Minister for Resources and Energy

Special Minister of State

Minister for the Central Coast

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 28 November 2011

BOURKE RESIDENTS INVITED TO BE ENERGY BUDGET WISE

A free two day seminar for community workers and service providers is being held in Bourke on 7 and 8 December 2011 focussed on solutions to help energy customers in hardship.

Energy Minister Chris Hartcher said the NSW Government was concerned about the impact of higher energy bills and encouraged community workers and others working with vulnerable members of the community to take advantage of the free seminar.

“The program is designed to help manage household budgets with an emphasis on energy, given this is becoming an increasing portion of household expenditure,” Mr Hartcher said.

The free event in Bourke is being run by the Financial Counsellors’ Association of NSW with speakers from NSW Trade & Investment. The event will cover:

- assessing financial situations
- how to use budgeting tools and track spending
- goal setting and prioritising
- living better for less
- how to handle budget blow-outs
- understanding how the energy market works

Some funding is also available to assist community workers from neighbouring communities such as Cobar and Brewarrina to attend.

“The NSW Government has also increased financial assistance measures for households including the \$200 Low Income Household Rebate and the \$200 Medical Energy Rebate,” Mr Hartcher said.

“A new Energy Assistance Guide has also been released providing community workers with access to all the information necessary to assist customers needing a hand with their energy bills.”

To download a copy of the Energy Assistance Guide and fact sheets visit www.energy.nsw.gov.au/customers/energy-assistance-guide.

To register to attend the event visit www.fcan.com.au or phone FCAN on 1300 914 408 (free call).

What: **Bourke Budget Wise**

When: 7 & 8 December 2011

Who: Community workers and service providers (registration required)

For energy assistance measures visit www.cutyourpowerbills.nsw.gov.au.