



Simon Corbell MLA

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MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER FOR TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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LARGE SCALE SOLAR AUCTION LEGISLATION READY TO GO

The ACT Labor Government will move ahead with a national first to support the development of large scale solar power facilities in Canberra with the tabling of the Electricity Feed In (Large Scale Renewable Energy Generation) Bill 2011 in the Legislative Assembly tomorrow, Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell, announced today.

“This is the first time an Australian Government has proposed the use of a feed in tariff for commercial scale renewable energy generation,” Mr Corbell said.

“The Bill establishes the framework for a feed in tariff ‘reverse auction’ to award support for at least two large scale solar generation plants capable of powering 7000 Canberra homes.

“This reverse auction process will require companies to provide a detailed proposal to the ACT Government about how they can provide the greatest amount of renewable energy at the lowest cost to Canberrans.

The new legislation outlines a scheme to see renewable energy projects totalling up to 210 megawatts (MW) in capacity receiving support through a feed in tariff. Mr Corbell said a first release of 40MW of capacity for solar generation located within the Territory will commence following passage of the Bill.

“The first release under the Scheme will deliver enough clean energy to power around 7000 ACT households and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 850,000 tonnes over the life of the project as well as provide about 14% of the minimum electricity demand of the city,” Mr Corbell said.

“The recent passage of the Commonwealth’s legislation establishing a long term carbon price underlines the prudence of jurisdictions and communities in pursuing low carbon energy options. The ACT Government is committed to a clean and sustainable future.

“The cost of solar generation technologies has come down substantially in recent years due to high demand and new economies of scale being achieved in production.

“This, combined with a strong Australian dollar, provides an opportunity to bring forward strong competition to determine solar energy’s current market price through this innovative auction process.

“The scheme will complement upcoming government programs that will support low income households address energy price increases and takes the first serious steps towards achieving the ambitious greenhouse gas reduction targets the Territory set itself last year.

“The first auction process is expected to get underway before the end of the year, and a comprehensive information package will be provided to industry at that time,” he said.

Further information will be available at <http://www.environment.act.gov.au/energy>

Statement ends: Wednesday November 16, 2011.

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