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**August 2010**

## **Toward Q2 eNews**

**Welcome to the August edition of Toward Q2 eNews.**

Congratulations Queensland, it's great to see that we are well on our way to making Queensland Australia's solar state, and reducing our carbon footprint by one-third by 2020.

Our investment of \$115 million in the recent State Budget is helping to build the solar industry through a range of projects across the State. There is also no better time to take advantage of a range of rebates and incentives available on offer through the [EzyGreen energy reduction scheme](#) and for installing solar hot water systems.

We are also on target to meet our commitment to create 100,000 jobs in three years with Queensland leading the way in job creation for 12 straight months.

Thank you to all the [Q2 Partners](#) who are contributing to projects and programs to help achieve our Q2 targets. I also strongly encourage individuals to help us out by joining the MyQ2 community at [myq2.com.au](http://myq2.com.au). So far we have more than 570 members helping to make *Tomorrow's Queensland* strong, green, smart, healthy and fair.

**Anna Bligh MP**  
**Premier of Queensland**

## Mining ends on North Stradbroke Island



**Phasing out mining and making over half of North Stradbroke Island a declared National Park within the next 18 months is directly contributing to our Q2 target to protect 50 per cent more land for nature conservation.**

Making North Stradbroke Island a National Park will ensure that it continues to evolve from an industrial site to a showcase for eco-tourism. The plan is to increase the National Park area on North Stradbroke from just 500 hectares or 1.7 per cent to about 22,000 hectares or 80 per cent by 2027.

This plan will add to our National Park area, cut greenhouse gas emissions and open up opportunities for more nature based tourism, alternative employment and business opportunities, including creating at least 400 eco-tourism jobs.

Over the next 12 months, the Queensland Government will work with the Quandamooka People to negotiate an Indigenous Land Agreement which will provide them with community land outcomes, financial and cultural benefits use.

Have your say or to find out more information visit [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au), phone 1300 130 372 (DERM call centre) or email [straddie.vision@derm.qld.gov.au](mailto:straddie.vision@derm.qld.gov.au).

*Photo courtesy of © Michael Marston – ePixel Images*

## Help make Queensland Australia's solar state



**Families, businesses and community groups are encouraged to emulate the Queensland Maroon's winning attitude and [help reduce Queensland's carbon footprint](#) by making Queensland Australia's solar state.**

There has never been a better time for Queenslanders to [do the bright thing](#), go solar and take advantage of benefits and incentives available from the State and Australian Government. Programs on offer provide around \$3000 in incentives toward installing a new solar hot water system. These include the [Queensland Solar Hot Water Rebate](#), [Solar Bonus Scheme](#), and [Australian Government Solar Hot Water Rebate](#).

The Queensland Government has also set aside \$115 million in the 2010-11 State Budget for solar power projects.

Figures released in January 2010 show that Queensland was second only to New South Wales in the uptake of solar hot water systems. New South Wales currently has 26,358 households who have converted to solar hot water systems, well ahead of Queensland with 10,571 people.

Queensland is already well ahead of New South Wales in the uptake of Solar PV – the systems that contribute to general household electricity. More than 23,100 households have gone solar in Queensland thanks to the generous rebates on offer, this is nearly 2000 more than in New South Wales.

To take advantage of the current solar rebates and incentives call 13 GET SOLAR (13 438 76527) or visit [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au), [brightthing.energy.qld.gov.au](http://brightthing.energy.qld.gov.au), or [www.climatechange.gov.au](http://www.climatechange.gov.au).

*Photo courtesy of © Lyle Radford.*

## Queensland home to largest solar project in the southern hemisphere



**In the 2010-11 State Budget, the Queensland Government announced a \$115 million package over five years to invest in the solar industry and help turn Queensland into Australia's solar state.**

This investment includes contributing \$35 million to a new renewable energy project at Kogan Creek near Dalby which will be home to one of the largest solar projects in the southern hemisphere. This project will use solar power to generate steam to drive the turbine at Kogan Creek Coal fire powered station. It will boost electricity by 44 megawatts and reduce carbon emissions using energy from the sun.

To meet our target to [reduce Queensland's carbon footprint](#), the Queensland Government is committed to doing the bright thing and investing heavily in solar technology to help make us the solar state.

Solar initiatives funded from this year's budget include:

- \$35.4 million for CS Energy's Carbon Reduction Program – supporting development of major renewable energy projects at Kogan Creek
- \$29.5 million for the \$60 million Solar Rebate Scheme – providing Queenslanders with rebates of \$600 and \$1000 for installing solar heat pump or hot water systems
- \$5.8 million for the Solar Kindergartens Program – funding installation of solar PV panels on the roofs of new and existing kindergarten buildings, built or upgraded over the next four years.

Through these projects Queensland is fast becoming a leader in solar and renewable energy development.

## EzyGreen energy reduction scheme



**The community will benefit from the launch of the new EzyGreen energy reduction scheme, contributing to the Queensland Government's Q2 target to [reduce Queensland's carbon footprint](#) by one-third by 2020.**

The EzyGreen scheme will help promote a clean, green and more sustainable Brisbane, through an easy-to-use program that bundles free and discounted energy-saving appliances with GreenPower and solar power options.

All Local, State and Federal energy saving initiatives, rebates and incentives are available through the scheme, and it is open to all home owners and renters in Brisbane.

To join the program, or to find out more about the services and products available visit [www.ezygreen.com.au](http://www.ezygreen.com.au) or call 1300 EZY GREEN (1300 399 473).

## Queensland rockets past halfway mark in jobs target



**The Queensland Government's economic strategy to create [strong employment growth](#) and build a [strong economic future](#) for Queensland is continuing to produce results.**

Queensland is once again the job-generating capital of Australia, with another 5600 jobs being created in July.

The Queensland Government remains committed to meeting our target for 100,000 jobs in three years. We have passed the half way mark, with the jobs target now down to 38,800. A total of 61,200 jobs have now been created since March 2009. Our [commitment to strong employment growth](#) is demonstrated by Queensland creating jobs for 12 straight months since July 2009, and generating more than a third of the nation's total jobs growth.

This strong economic growth is supported by our \$17.1 billion building program, and other job-generating initiatives such as the lowest payroll tax in the nation, tax breaks for employers of apprentices and trainees, and boosting funding for employment programs such as Skilling Queensland for Work.

## A green future through bright ideas



The new [Queensland research and development investment strategy 2010-2020](#) is helping the Queensland Government to meet its Q2 target to [reduce Queensland's carbon footprint](#).

Investing in research and development is giving us a smarter approach to creating a green Queensland, and the new strategy is helping to produce innovative solutions for many of our current environmental problems. For example, rather than just fixing degraded soil and land resources, new technologies for farming are restoring and protecting the land, innovative solutions for clean and renewable energy are reducing carbon emissions, and research and development is helping us adapt to climate change and find new ways of managing ecosystems to encourage biodiversity.

The strategy identifies that research and development will be vital to every aspect of our economy, society and environment into the future, and that further research into personal behaviours will be important in encouraging the community to adopt new green and eco-friendly practices in their daily life.

To find out more information on how research and development is creating a sustainable future in Queensland visit the [Office of the Queensland Chief Scientist website](#).

## Welcome Q2 Partners



**Since May this year, another 40 organisations have joined our Q2 Partners program. We now have 55 Partners delivering projects and programs directly contributing to the achievement of our Q2 targets.**

The Q2 Partners program is one small way that we can recognise the shared responsibility that we have toward achieving a strong, green, smart, healthy and fair Queensland.

Partners include businesses, community groups, industry, non-government organisations and local councils. A full list of Q2 Partners and projects is available through the [Toward Q2 website](#).

If you would like to become a Q2 Partner, or to find out more about the program [visit the Toward Q2 website](#).

## Join the MyQ2 community



**Do you want to make a difference by helping to protect our lifestyle and environment and give Queensland a clean, green and sustainable future?**

If you said yes, then go to [myq2.com.au](http://myq2.com.au), sign up, and start making a difference. Being part of the MyQ2 community will give you access to a range of incentives, tools and advice, programs and services to help you take action in making a difference to your life, and for Queensland.

So far, more than 570 members are helping to reduce our carbon footprint by switching to GreenPower, recycling at home and work, drying their clothes on the line, turning off appliances at the wall, replacing incandescent light bulbs and installing a solar hot water system.

It's that simple! So get involved, [sign-up](#) and make a difference!

## Share your ideas

**What can we do individually, as communities and as a State to put Queensland out in front?**

Share your ideas:

- **online** [Share your ideas form](#)
- **by phone** 1800 082 105
- **by mail** Policy Development Office, PO Box 15185, City East QLD, 4002

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