



The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP

Premier of NSW

Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

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WITHOUT SOLAR ACTION, EVERY HOUSEHOLD WOULD FACE \$170 POWER BILL SLUG

If John Robertson's solar bonus scheme went unchanged, it would have meant every household would face a \$170 rise in their power bill, NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell said today.

"The solar bonus scheme is a classic example of why we were elected to office to clean up Labor's mess," Mr O'Farrell said.

"The cost of the scheme is out of control," he said.

"When John Robertson framed this scheme he said the cost was going to be \$355 million. The total cost of the scheme has now blown out to \$1.9 billion.

"A five-fold blowout in the cost of a Government scheme cannot go unchecked.

"We supported a solar scheme – but we would never support a scheme which hits every family in the State with higher power bills.

"If we allow this scheme to spiral out of control it will add \$170 to every family power bill in the State.

"Families across the State are already struggling to pay their electricity bills. We are not going to lumber them with an additional \$170 on their bills

"Even then Energy Minister, now Labor Leader, John Robertson said when introducing the legislation to Parliament: ***"the scheme's levers may be adjusted to ensure that excessive costs are not imposed on energy consumers as a result of the scheme."***^[1]

"Labor introduced a scheme which is a mess; it is too generous; it will deliver some people huge profits at the expense of ordinary families struggling to pay their bills – and even the now Labor Leader acknowledged the scheme may need to be adjusted.

"We cannot stand by and let that happen.

"That is why we are going to revise the solar bonus scheme and make it fairer for everyone," Mr O'Farrell said.

[1] Hansard [Electricity Supply Amendment (Solar Bonus Scheme) Bill 2009] 24 November 2009