

PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER SYSTEMS - GOVERNMENT REBATE

251. Hon NIGEL HALLETT to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Energy:

Until recently, the Sustainable Energy Development Office provided a five per cent rebate for the purchase of photovoltaic power systems, in addition to the 50 per cent commonwealth government rebate. As the government has made a commitment to help grow sustainable energy in Western Australia, I ask -

- (1) What additional funding will be committed to continue or increase this rebate in light of the government's sustainable energy policies?
- (2) If no further funding will be made available, why not?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

I thank Hon Nigel Hallett for some notice of this question.

- (1) This funding commitment actually ended in 2003-04. However, the funding was carried forward until all the remaining funds had been spent. The funding was from a state rebate program that existed before the commonwealth rebate program was introduced. No further funding will be made available for this particular rebate.
- (2) This change to the rebate brings Western Australia into line with the other states, none of which provides additional funding. The small change in the rebate is not expected to affect the overall uptake of renewable energy systems in Western Australia. The source of the commonwealth funding is in fact diesel excise paid in Western Australia and redistributed.

Although the state funding for this particular rebate has now ended, the government has allocated significant new funding to other sustainable energy rebate programs, such as the solar schools program, the solar water heater subsidy scheme and the renewable energy production subsidy.