

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**Additional Estimates Hearing – February 2010**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Topic: Election Commitments**

**Question reference number: CC35**

**Type of Question: Written**

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**Question:** (Senator Birmingham)

What action has been taken in regard to the following 2007 Labor election commitments:

- c) Create a national standard for carbon offsets
- q) Blueprint for coastal cities and towns to deal with climate change through national consultations
- r) \$25m over 5yrs to help prepare coastal communities for the impact of climate change
- x) Establish one-stop Green Shop
- cc) \$25m boost to solar cities prog, including new sites in Coburg and Perth
- dd) \$4.9m to help make Coburg a Solar Village
- ee) Labor will work through COAG to develop a consistent national approach to feed in tariffs, where solar photovoltaic installations receive a premium price for feeding electricity back into the electricity grid
- ff) \$250K to install solar heating panels at the Deception Bay PCYC pool
- gg) Aim to double the number of solar rooftops across Aust within the next 8 years

**Answer:**

- c) The National Carbon Offset Standard was released on 24 November 2009. Administrative arrangements for the standard have been put in place and implementation of the standard is scheduled to commence on 1 July 2010.
- q) The Australian Government has identified the coastal zone as a priority for national adaptation action and is continuing to work with the states and territories through COAG to develop a national climate change adaptation reform agenda.

The Government committed \$25 million, from the \$126 million allocated to the Australian Centre for Climate Change Adaptation in the 2007-08 budget, to help prepare coastal communities for the impact of climate change.

In November 2009 the Government released the *Climate Change Risks to Australia's Coast: A First Pass National Assessment* report. This Assessment provides the evidence base around which to begin to develop national co-operation in the coastal zone. The Assessment:

- provides a preliminary analysis of the extent and magnitude of risks to Australia's coastline, coastal biodiversity, cities and towns, and infrastructure;
- provides decision makers with a better understanding of the potential risks; and
- identifies priority areas for research, data gaps and investment.

The Assessment was a key input to the Australian Government's national forum on the *Adaptation Priorities for Australia's Coast* held on 18-19 February 2010. The outcomes of the Forum will be described in a report to be finalised within the next two months.

The outcomes of the Forum will inform the development of a national strategy on coastal adaptation, which will need to be progressed with states and territories. Priority issues identified in the Forum include the need for effective communication, particularly on the part of coastal climate change science, and for strong community engagement. Also recognised was the need for further risk assessment, for example on the risks to critical infrastructure and essential services.

In addition, on 19 February 2010 the Australian Government released *Adapting to Climate Change in Australia – An Australian Government Position Paper*. This paper sets out the Australian Government's vision for adapting to the impacts of climate change and proposes practical steps to realise this vision.

- r) Refer to part q.
- x) The website [www.LivingGreener.gov.au](http://www.LivingGreener.gov.au) was launched on 21 August 2009.

The website provides information and access to federal government programs on energy, water, waste and transport to help households live more sustainably. The site also incorporates links to state and territory assistance programs.

- cc) \$18.8 million in additional funding was allocated to the solar cities program in the 2007-08 additional estimates, bringing the total funding for the program to \$94 million.

Funding of \$13.9 million was provided to the Perth solar city, and announced on 11 August 2008.

Funding of \$4.9 million was provided to the Moreland (Coburg) Solar City on 10 June 2008. Implementation has begun and the project is tracking well in its delivery of products and services.

- dd) Refer to part cc.

- ee) COAG agreed on 29 November 2008 to a set of national principles to apply to new Feed-in Tariff schemes and to inform the reviews of existing schemes. These principles are designed to promote national consistency of schemes across Australia and to ensure that owners of small-scale renewable energy generation systems receive a fair and reasonable value for exported energy. Any premium rates are to be jurisdictionally determined.
- ff) \$300,000 was allocated in the 2007-08 additional estimates for the installation of solar heating panels on the Deception Bay Police Citizens Youth Club to provide water heating to Deception Bay Pool. This project has been completed.
- gg) This election commitment was met through the implementation of the *Solar Homes and Communities Plan* which provided a rebate of \$8 per watt installed (up to \$8,000), capped at 1,000 watts, for installation of photovoltaic systems. In 2007 there were 30,000 solar rooftops across Australia. We have more than doubled this number with around 100,000 systems installed since 2008 and the entire program expected to fund around 120,000 solar systems.