1. The Queensland Solar Bonus Scheme (the Scheme) has achieved its policy objectives to make solar photovoltaic (PV) systems more affordable for Queenslanders, stimulate the solar power industry and encourage energy efficiency.
2. The Scheme pays eligible households and other small customers for the surplus electricity generated from solar PV panel systems, which is exported to the Queensland electricity grid.
3. Solar PV uptake as a result of the Scheme has exceeded original projections. When the Scheme commenced in July 2008, approximately 1,200 Queenslanders had connected 3.2 megawatts (MW) of solar PV capacity. As at 31 May 2012, more than 180,000 Queenslanders had signed up to the Scheme with over 461 MW of connected capacity. This rapid growth has resulted in the creation of more than 1,000 full-time accredited solar installers.
4. Cabinet approved:
* the closure of the 44 cents per kilowatt hour Scheme from midnight on
9 July 2012;
* replacement of the existing Scheme with an 8 cents per kilowatt hour feed-in tariff from 10 July 2012, subject to review by 1 July 2013;
* the Minister for Energy and Water Supply to task the Queensland Competition Authority with reviewing and making recommendations to Government on an unsubsidised ‘fair and reasonable’ feed-in tariff for Queensland, and its implementation; and
* transitional provisions which cease an existing customer’s eligibility for the
44 cents per kilowatt hour Scheme where they cease to be the electricity account holder for the eligible premises or fail to install their system by 30 June 2013.
1. *Attachments*
* Nil.