

Friday, 24 June 2011

LIBERALS AND GREENS BETRAY SA HOUSEHOLDS

Energy Minister Michael O'Brien says the Liberals and Greens have betrayed South Australians who bought solar panels over the past 10 months.

"The Liberals and Greens have duded them," Mr O'Brien said.

"The Liberal-Green coalition in the Upper House has let down people who made purchase decisions on the basis of a certain expectation in terms of price."

Mr O'Brien said 72,985 people had signed up to the Government's scheme believing they would receive a feed-in tariff of 54 cents a kilowatt hour.

Parliament last night voted to retain the feed-in tariff at 44 cents until 2028 for people who enter the scheme before September 30 this year.

"Many of these people are battlers. They have been betrayed and abandoned by the Greens and Liberals," he said.

"The Government reluctantly accepted the amendment to get the legislation through parliament and to give certainty to industry and consumers going forward."

Mr O'Brien said he was pleased the Government's amendment to extend eligibility for the scheme to new entrants beyond September 30 was accepted.

"New entrants after September 30 will have two years to sign up and receive a feed-in rate for five years of around 22 cents/kWh," he said.

"The extension gives a softer landing for tradesmen and installers who depend on the solar industry for their livelihoods."