

MEDIA RELEASE

Shane Rattenbury MLA, Attorney General and Energy spokesperson, ACT Greens

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Libs must stop misleading community on solar costs

ACT Greens MLA Shane Rattenbury has called on the Liberal party to stop misleading the public about the costs of the government's household solar scheme

"The 30 MW of small and medium scale solar in the ACT was costed at around \$27 per household per year – that's an average of about 50 cents a week for households," said Shane Rattenbury, Greens Energy Spokesperson.

"Yet repeatedly we have heard the Liberal party quote the price of \$225 per household per year in discussions about the household scheme.

"It's just not accurate, and it's a divisive ploy that the Liberals are using to pitch those in the community with solar on their rooves against those who don't.

"The \$225 figure actually refers to Government's estimates for the entire 210 MW committed to by the ACT Government, including 170MW for industrial-scale solar plants - that is a significant investment by the ACT community into generation capacity for the future.

"With the costs of solar dropping rapidly, it could well be less than \$200 per year for that additional large scale capacity

"That price will lock in 20 years of solar energy, which against the backdrop of rising coal and gas prices, will be good value for money.

"Yet even Mr Seselja has expressed a preference for large scale solar, so presumably he won't be complaining about the additional \$200 a year when the large scale solar tariff comes on line.

"In actual fact, if the Liberals are advocating ongoing reliance on fossil fuel based energy, they will be locking in long-term price rises for all electricity consumers.

"If Mr Seselja and his party need any more confirmation that investment is going to be required into renewable energy technologies, he should take a look at latest International Energy Agency

report which forecast that aggressive investment in renewables will actually mean that consumers will pay less than they otherwise would for their energy.

“Mr Seselja and his colleagues are all over the shop on climate change – but what they seem consistent on is their desire to mislead the Canberra community about the issue,” said Mr Rattenbury.