



**Hon. Robert Swarten MP**  
Member for Rockhampton



**Queensland  
Government**

Ref: CAB PW00958/08

19 MAY 2008

Mr N Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
Cnr Alice and George Streets  
Brisbane Qld 4000

**Minister for Public Works, Housing  
and Information and Communication  
Technology**

LAI'D UPON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE	
No.:	5208T3538
20 MAY 2008	
MP:	Hon R Swarten
Clerk's Signature:	

Dear Neil

I refer to your letter of 16 April 2008 regarding Petition No. 905-08 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on behalf of Ms Di Reilly MP in relation to renewable energy sources in Government buildings.

The need to manage energy efficiently is acknowledged by the Queensland Government, and a number of programs and policies have been established to minimise energy use in Government buildings.

In December 2007, Executive Government endorsed the Strategic Energy Efficiency Policy for Queensland Government Buildings and the Carbon Reduction Strategy for Government Office Buildings. The Policy mandates energy consumption reduction targets of 5% by 2010, and 20% by 2015. The Carbon Reduction Strategy provides a framework by which Government-owned office buildings can achieve carbon neutrality by 2020.

The Department of Public Works and several other Government departments are proactively reducing consumption through a range of initiatives, such as the implementation of Energy Performance Contracts and energy efficient retrofits.

In addition, the Department of Public Works has also undertaken additional energy audits to implement further energy reduction projects across the portfolio. These include lighting retrofits, implementing staff awareness programs on energy use, incorporating energy saving technologies into maintenance routines, improving green purchasing practices, mandating minimum air-conditioning levels and moving towards green leasing arrangements where possible.

In relation to new building and refurbishments, the Department of Public Works has implemented a range of energy efficiency policies for both owned and leased buildings within the portfolio. This includes the adoption of the Australian Building Greenhouse Rating (ABGR) scheme to assess building energy performance.

The Department of Public Works will target a minimum 5 Star Green Star rating for all new office buildings and fitouts. For all green leases, office fitouts and refurbishments of existing buildings in excess of 2,000m<sup>2</sup> the target will be a minimum 4 Star Green Star rating.

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The Department of Public Works will also target a minimum 4.5 Star NABERS OFFICE Energy Rating for its new office buildings, office refurbishments, fitouts and leases in excess of 2,000m<sup>2</sup>.

Future renewable energy purchases will be considered after all other energy savings measures have been completed.

The use of solar technologies, in association with other proven energy saving measures, is currently being considered within new buildings and refurbishments. Where financially viable, these will be implemented to assist the Department of Public Works in meeting the Government ClimateSmart Policy requirements.

I trust this information addresses your enquiry. If I can be of assistance with other matters within my portfolio, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Swarten', written over a large, faint circular watermark or stamp.

Robert Swarten MP  
**Minister for Public Works, Housing and  
Information and Communication Technology**