



# The Hon Chris Hartcher MP

## Minister for Resources and Energy

### Special Minister of State

### Minister for the Central Coast

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### LABOR LEFT NSW HOUSEHOLDS TO FOOT THE BILL

NSW taxpayers have been shackled with a \$1.9 billion bill in the form of Labor's disastrous Solar Bonus Scheme.

The cost of the Scheme, originally pitched by the former Labor Government to cost \$355 million, has blown out due to ongoing policy failure and mismanagement by the then Energy Minister John Robertson.

When introducing the Scheme in 2009, John Robertson said "The scheme's levels may be adjusted to ensure that excessive costs are not imposed on energy consumers as a result of the scheme."

Minister for Resources and Energy, Chris Hartcher said Labor failed to act on its own advice.

"This scheme was poorly constructed; it was poorly modelled and it was poorly monitored. Worse still, Labor failed to act when it knew the cost impost on NSW households would be significant.

"The NSW Liberal & Nationals Government has been left to clean up Labor's mess. Failure to act would have seen Labor incompetence add an additional \$170 to every household power bill across the state."

Mr Hartcher said the former Labor Government knew as far back as November 2010 that the cost of this Scheme was out of control

"In the three week period following the announcement of the reduced tariff in late 2010, a rush of 37,000 customers applied.

"This equalled an additional 79 megawatts and a bill of \$500 million – in just three weeks."

Mr Hartcher said this represented an extraordinary lack of oversight from the now Opposition Leader.

"Yet again, the former Labor government failed to act responsibly and make the correct decision in the interest of all NSW taxpayers and rein in the extraordinary cost blowout.

"This has left the NSW Liberal and Nationals Government to make the difficult but necessary decision to reduce the financial impact on all NSW households."