



# 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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### **JOHN ROBERTSON HAS A LOT TO ANSWER FOR: WILL HE APOLOGISE TO THE PEOPLE OF NSW?**

Minister for Resources and Energy, Chris Hartcher has today demanded John Robertson apologise to the people of NSW for his failed Solar Bonus Scheme.

The Scheme, which was supposed to cost \$355 million and is now expected to reach a total of \$1.9 billion, was introduced by John Robertson in 2009 as Energy Minister in the former Labor Government.

At his first press conference as Opposition Leader, John Robertson admitted the Scheme was a mess: *“Unfortunately I wasn’t there to monitor it and watch where it was going and deal with it.”*

Mr Hartcher said it’s time for the Opposition Leader to come clean on his compulsive failure to execute, manage and monitor the Scheme.

“John Robertson himself has admitted that the Scheme was a failure. It’s now time for the Opposition Leader to start talking and reveal why he failed to act as he watched the Scheme costs blowout.

Labor and John Robertson must start answering the following questions:

- Why did Labor hide the enormous cost blowout before the election?
- Why didn’t Labor immediately move to rein in the Scheme when it knew that applications and connectivity to the Scheme had reached capacity as at 6 December 2010?
- How did Labor so bungle a scheme forecast to cost \$355 million and allow it to blowout to \$1.9 billion?”

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

“This scheme was poorly constructed; it was poorly modelled and it was poorly monitored.

“When will John Robertson start talking on why he failed to act responsibly and apologise to the people of NSW for his incompetence?”