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## Media Release

# Take advantage of the solar hot water rebate and cut your power bills

Local residents are being encouraged to take up the Rudd Government's solar hot water rebate and slash their energy bills, said Federal Member for Lindsay, David Bradbury.

As part of the Rudd Government's stimulus package, eligible households can apply for a \$1,600 rebate to install a solar hot water system or \$1,000 to install a heat pump system. A \$300 rebate is also available from the New South Wales State Government.

"Water heating is a household's single largest source of energy use," said Mr Bradbury. "Heating water using a conventional electric water heater can account for a quarter of the energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions in a home.

"That is why the Rudd Government, through the stimulus package, has invested in practical measures to help households reduce their energy consumption and cut down their power bills.

"By taking up the Rudd Government's rebates for solar and heat pump hot water systems, households can save up to \$700 a year on their energy bills.

"The rebate is only available to those households switching from conventional electric hot water systems. The rebate will be particularly attractive to residents in areas where gas is not currently available and solar provides the only energy-efficient alternative to electric systems.

"Already, 1,364 households in the local area have taken up the solar hot water rebate, and I look forward to seeing more homes take advantage of this program."

Mr Bradbury visited South Penrith resident Alyn Regan to inspect his new solar hot water system, which was installed late last year using the Rudd Government's rebate program.

With the rebates from the Federal and State Governments, Mr Regan and his wife paid just over \$2000, or less than half the cost of the solar hot water system, out of their own pockets, and are looking forward to seeing the savings in costs on their first electricity bill.

"Mr and Mrs Regan are a great example of the benefit that can be achieved by tapping into the Rudd Government's solar hot water rebate," said Mr Bradbury.

"Coupled with the rebates also available for ceiling insulation, the Rudd Government is investing in practical measures to help people make their homes more energy efficient and reduce electricity costs.

"I would encourage all local residents to take up these rebates and save money on their power bills."

For more information, contact the Energy Efficient Homes hotline on **1800 808 571**.