



THE HON DUNCAN KERR SC MP
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR PACIFIC ISLAND AFFAIRS
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR DENISON

MEDIA RELEASE

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Solar and water grants to benefit schools

The Federal Member for Denison, Duncan Kerr SC MP, today welcomed the start of the Australian Government's *National Solar Schools Program*.

Mr Kerr said grants of up to \$50,000 were now available to schools for the installation of solar power systems and a host of energy and water saving measures.

He said the program would provide schools with an unprecedented opportunity to take practical action to help tackle climate change while saving money, energy and water.

"The Australian Government wants every school – primary, secondary, public and private – to have the opportunity to become a 'solar school' and the start of this \$500 million program delivers on our election commitment.

"Schools can save energy, water and money. Schools with mains power supply may also be able to sell surplus solar power from weekends and holidays back into the grid – making these schools 'mini' power stations.

"Rainwater tanks, solar hot water systems, upgraded lighting, insulation, small wind or hydro power generators, awnings – there is a long list of measures that schools can choose from to improve their sustainability. Schools will decide what is best and the Government will provide the backing.

"Importantly, this program will also provide students with practical demonstration and knowledge to carry with them into their homes and into our communities; every little bit helping in the global effort against climate change," Mr Kerr said.

Schools can find out more information about the program, including funding guidelines at:

www.environment.gov.au/settlements/renewable/nationalsolarschools/index.html

MORE INFORMATION: Rebecca White 6234 5255