

## **Western Australian Sustainable Energy Association Inc. (WA SEA)**

### **Media Release**

The only real way to save daylight

The Western Australian Sustainable Energy Association Inc. (WA SEA) welcomes the Greens announcement for the compulsory installation of solar hot water heaters for all new and replacement hot water heaters and the introduction of a low-interest loan scheme for solar water heaters.

‘Deployment of solar water heating is a simple, long-term, cost effective and reliable way of reducing greenhouse gases, and is available now’ says Dr Ray Wills, Chair, WA Sustainable Energy Association Inc (WA SEA).

The high upfront cost has been a major barrier for the uptake of solar water heaters in the past. So, the introduction of a low-interest loan scheme will make solar water heaters a more financially viable option in the future.

‘Household water heating costs can be reduced by 80% through the use of solar water heaters. In the long term, gas-boosted solar water heaters can result in significant greenhouse reductions and also energy cost savings’ says Dr Ray Wills

‘WA SEA continues to strongly advocate, as it has for several years, that the State Government should lead by example and install gas-boosted solar water heaters on all Government buildings and institutions, including Homeswest homes, hospitals and schools.

‘The State Government’s Solar Hot Water Heater rebate has been a great success in increasing the uptake of solar water heaters, however, with our State’s greenhouse gas emissions continuing to rise, more needs to be done to mitigate this and solar is a readily available option.’ says Dr Wills

‘It is a critical time to consider measures like these as the government draws up the budget for the next financial year. It makes sense that the WA Government should invest some of the wealth created in the resources boom to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, and at the same time reduce our reliance on fossil fuel-based generation of energy that will undoubtedly be more expensive in the future’ says Dr Wills, Chair, WA Sustainable Energy Association Inc (WA SEA).

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