



Rachel Nolan MP

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Free kits to help households save energy and money

Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan said today that the Bligh Government had produced free kits for householders to help them save energy and save money.

Ms Nolan is urging householders to get *Energywise* to save on their electricity bills and help tackle climate change.

"The new kits have everything a household needs to work out where their energy is being wasted and what steps they can take to conserve it," she said.

"The kits have something for everybody - simple, free and low-cost energy-saving tips, right through to practical activities that help households work out which appliances are using the most energy.

"We can all play a role in tackling climate change. Some steps may be big, some small, but together they have the potential to save tens of thousands of tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions," she said.

Energy conservation tips in the kit include:

- turn off appliances at the wall to cut standby power use
- insulate your home
- turn off second fridges when not needed
- fit low-flow shower heads to save hot water.

"Because we can't see energy being used in our homes, we can't see it escaping right under our nose. Take standby power – it's a waste of energy.

"By switching appliances off at the wall the average household can save up to \$100 a year.

"We all need to look at how we can do the same things using fewer resources – which is what energy conservation is all about.

"We estimate that a typical household can quite easily make a 10 per cent saving on its energy use," she said.

Ms Nolan said the *Energywise* kit is part of the Bligh Government's Consumer Action Plan to help households meet the cost of their energy bills.

"We're on the side of the consumer. We know that pensioners and low income earners are doing it tough. That's why we increased the State Government's rebate for pensioners and seniors when electricity prices rose, Ms Nolan said.

"We're also spending \$450,000 over 3 years to fund a consumer advocacy service for the Queensland Council of Social Services and other key consumer groups to conduct energy consumer research.

"It's about giving them a voice – a say in their future.

"We want to hear from the heartland because no one knows more than pensioners themselves what it's really like to make ends meet.

"We're also providing a record \$650 million for Ergon Energy this year to subsidise the cost of electricity for households and businesses in regional Queensland.

"We're on the side of the consumer and we will continue to look after the interests of everyday Queenslanders, especially those who are doing it tough," Ms Nolan said.

Ms Nolan said to request a free *Energywise* kit, people could call 3224 7527 or complete an online request form at www.energywise.qld.gov.au