



Media Release

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SOLAR IS WORKING: LETS KEEP IT WORKING

An innovative scheme that provides solar panels on the roofs of business for free may have a short life if the Federal Government abolishes the Renewable Energy Target (RET).

Best Western Ballarat Suites in Main Road has just taken advantage of such a scheme, but other businesses that would like to follow suit need to act quickly. Danny and Natalie Marwood had 10kW of photovoltaic panels installed on the roof of their business last Friday for free.

"Part of the income generated from the panels goes to the installer so it pays for itself. The Marwoods will cut their electricity bills and leave responsibility for maintenance to the installer. It's a win to the environment and win to their business," said Greens candidate for Buninyong, Tony Goodfellow.

"This type of scheme cleverly shares the benefits of solar power, and effectively allows business to rent their roof space for solar panels through a discount on their energy bills. The business does not even need to be the owner of their building," added Mr Goodfellow.

"Unfortunately, recommendations made by the Renewable Energy Target Review commissioned by the Abbott government will kill off such innovative schemes that have the potential to replace a lot of dirty brown coal-generated power in Victoria.

"It will put thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in economic activity at risk across the solar industry and it will rob business people like the Marwoods of the incentive to cost-effectively cut the energy costs of their business," said Mr Goodfellow.

"That is why The Greens have pledged to push for a Victorian RET if the Abbott government goes ahead with axing the RET. The Greens have also announced a Victorian Solar Bank to allow all Victorians the chance to get free panels like the Marwoods.

"We challenge the old parties to match The Greens position," stated Mr Goodfellow.

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Please see attached backgrounder on the VRET, for Best Western Ballarat Suites and Hire Solar. Details on the Victorian Solar Bank are available at <http://vicmps.greens.org.au/content/greens-will-help-victorians-bank-solar>

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