



October 2014

## Power Plan for price relief

It's good to see the savings are already flowing on household power bills with the Federal Coalition's abolition of the carbon tax. In Queensland, further savings are expected with the State Government's newly announced plan to permanently remove the cost of the Solar Bonus Scheme from electricity prices.

The \$3.4 billion Strong Choices Cost of Living Fund will be used to ease cost of living pressures for Queenslanders by subsidizing the cost of solar feed-in tariffs.

There will be no change for existing solar power customers who will continue to receive their contracted 44-cent feed-in tariff, but these costs would be paid out of the Strong Choices Cost of Living Fund rather than shared between all electricity users.

If the State Government is given a mandate to act on the Strong Choices lease plan at the next election, these funds will be available to significantly put downward pressure on electricity costs by removing this cost burden.

Use the Strong Choices calculator to see how much you could save under the new Strong Choices Plan at <http://www.strongchoices.qld.gov.au/calculator>.

[READ MORE:](#)

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## Have your say on Sunshine Coast Airport Expansion

Information is now available for local residents to find out the facts and have their say about the Sunshine Coast Council's proposed Airport expansion which will include a new east-west runway. This new project is finally coming to fruition after first being proposed in about 1983. Now critical deadlines are looming as CASA's special dispensation for the existing runway is due to expire in 2020.

The environmental impact statement can be viewed at all major Sunshine Coast libraries and council service centres. The EIS

reviews the social, environmental and economic impacts and addresses issues such as aircraft noise, flight paths and flooding. Information is available also available online at <http://www.sunshinecoastairport.com.au/go.cfm/expansion-project> or by calling the project team on 1800 210 755.

You can are your say online by Thursday 13 November at

<https://haveyoursay.dsdp.qld.gov.au/coordinatorgeneral/SCAexpansion>.

[READ MORE:](#)

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## "Great Results Guarantee" funding for our schools

The second round of funding for our schools through the 'Great Results Guarantee' has been announced and I'm pleased to see that schools across the Maroochydore Electorate will share in \$1,175,368 which is over \$350,000 more than last year's allocation.

The best part about this funding is that it goes straight to our schools, where the principals, in conjunction with the school community, can decide how best to use the funds to boost literacy and numeracy outcomes for our students.

A total of \$183 million will be provided to all Queensland state schools next year, a \$52 million increase on the \$131 million provided in 2014.

For more information visit [www.education.qld.gov.au/resultsguarantee](http://www.education.qld.gov.au/resultsguarantee)

[READ MORE:](#)

### Great Results Guarantee Improving student performance

Every Queensland state school student will either achieve the National Minimum Standard for literacy and numeracy for their year level or have an evidence-based plan, developed by the school, in place to address their specific learning needs.



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## \$36 million pledge for more Apprenticeships

A great announcement this month to support school leavers and people looking for new skills or a career change - our government will pay employers up to \$6,000 for each additional apprentice taken on this financial year.

This is a fantastic opportunity for industry and it will also give confidence to mums and dads that their children will have a better chance at gaining skills and employment.

The initiative will be called the 'Queensland Apprenticeship Pledge' and more info can be found at [www.training.qld.gov.au/pledge](http://www.training.qld.gov.au/pledge).

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## Spring funding boost for local community groups

Congratulations to the following not-for-profit organisations in the Maroochydore electorate on their funding wins from latest quarterly round of the State Government Gambling Community Benefit Fund totalling \$183,984.

- Sunshine 60 & Better Group Inc, \$20,331 to purchase equipment;
- Mudjimba Surf Life Saving Club Inc, \$17,451.44 to purchase medical and AV equipment;
- Alexandra Mooloolaba Kindergarten Inc, \$19,774.55 to upgrade facilities;
- Coolum Beach Community Pre-School & Kindergarten Assoc Inc, \$31,626.37 to upgrade playground facilities;
- Quality Lifestyle Alliance Inc, \$31,163.73 to purchase IT equipment and upgrade facilities;

- Mudjimba Community Kindergarten & Pre-School Assoc Inc, \$31,818.18 to upgrade facilities;
- Apex Queensland Youth Camps Limited, \$31,818.18 to upgrade facilities.

I encourage all local groups to apply for the next round of funding before the end of November 2014.

For more information go to <http://www.justice.qld.gov.au/corporate/sponsorships-and-grants/grants/community-benefit-funding-programs/successful-funding-applications>

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### ***Funding win for local seniors group***

Congratulations to the Sunshine 60 and Better Group for securing \$230,023 in State Government funding to help keep seniors fit, active and connected.

The Group was founded in 1994 to proactively address Queensland's rapidly ageing population by empowering senior citizens to remain active in their community and healthy into retirement.

For more information on the Sunshine Coast 60 and Better Group visit [www.sunshine60.org.au](http://www.sunshine60.org.au) or contact 5443 7281.



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### **Safety works underway on Maroochy Boulevard slip lane**

Work has now commenced to improve safety and visibility at a local accident black spot in central Maroochy thanks to \$72,000 state government funding.

The concrete traffic island adjacent to left-hand turn slip lane into Maroochy Boulevard from the Sunshine Motorway southbound off-ramp will be cut back and improve the visibility of vehicles travelling eastbound on Maroochy Boulevard.

To avoid daytime traffic disruptions, work will take place between 6pm and 6am, from Sunday to Friday. Temporary slip lane closures and reduced speed limits will be in place.

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### **New pedestrian refuges for David Low Way**

I'm pleased to announce that two new pedestrian refuges will be installed on the David Low Way in coming months - at Yaroomba and Marcoola.

Construction is due to begin in mid-November on the first pedestrian crossing near Seaside Boulevard at Marcoola, just north of where the right-turn lane from David Low Way into Seaside Boulevard commences. The location was chosen due to strong demand for pedestrians to cross here to access the bus stop and the availability of good sight distance.

Design work for the new pedestrian refuge at Yaroomba, near Yerranya Row is being finalised and work is due to commence late 2014/early 2015. Further information will be provided to local residents shortly.

During construction work there will be some changes to traffic conditions including reduced speed limits and temporary lane closures during some nightworks.

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## What's your "what-if" plan?

Now is the time to 'get ready' to face the possibility of wild weather this storm season.

Residents are encouraged to make small preparations, like preparing your home, making sure you have enough food and water for at least three days, deciding on a meeting point and a close contact if you find yourself caught in a disaster. Being prepared will help our community recover quickly if a disaster was to strike.

My office has supplies of USB/wrist bands and is offering a free service of scanning important documents so that they can be stored electronically for safe-keeping. Call 5443 7995 to arrange a time to come in with your documents.

For more information to help you and your family prepare go to [www.getready.qld.gov.au](http://www.getready.qld.gov.au).



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## Feedback sought from Building Industry Subcontractors

Subcontractors are the lifeblood of our construction industry and the Government wants to ensure they get paid for their hard work.

The Government has already boosted payment protection by overhauling the Building and Construction Industry Payments Act (BCIPA), and by making it an offence punishable by the building watchdog to not pay a subcontractor.

Now we have released a discussion paper and we want to hear from the industry about what else can be done to help improve payment outcomes for subcontractors.

You can read the 'Better Payment Outcomes' Discussion Paper and complete the survey online at <https://www.qbcc.qld.gov.au/media-releases/better-payment-outcomes-discussion-paper>, or email your submission to [registry@qbcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:registry@qbcc.qld.gov.au).

You may also be interested in attending a QBCC seminar at the Maroochy RSL on Tuesday 25th November from 4.30pm - 6pm.



## Christmas celebration - Tuesday 2nd December at 6pm

Please mark your diaries for our Christmas celebration with the Hon Ian Walker, Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts.

More information to follow shortly.

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Congratulations to Baillie Morris, a very deserving winner Of Maroochy High School's Senior Citizenship Award



