Minister for Energy and Renewables
Minister for Parks and Heritage
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Tasmanian Government

4th November 2026

Helen Burnet MP
Member for Clark
via Clerk of the House of Assembly
haprocedure@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Burnet

Thank you for raising your question in Parliament on 28 October 2026 on behalf of your constituent Tiffany regarding the Federal Government's Community Solar Banks Program.

As you note, electricity bills can form a major part of household budgets, and the Tasmanian Government is committed to ensuring Tasmanian regulated electricity prices remain among the lowest in the nation, which was reconfirmed by the Independent Economic Regulator earlier this year. We are also open to considering other options to support households to reduce their bills, including the Commonwealth's Community Solar Banks Program, which was considered by the Tasmanian Government in 2023.

I understand the Solar Banks program is primarily designed to support shared solar installations in high-density apartment complexes, where multiple households can benefit from a common solar system. Compared to other jurisdictions, these high-density apartment complexes are far less common in Tasmania, with almost 90 per cent of strata developments comprising five or fewer lots. This significantly limits the application in Tasmania, while keeping program administrative costs high.

In addition, I am aware implementing shared solar arrangements can involve significant technical and legal complexities, including the suitability of existing electrical infrastructure and agreements between owners, landlords and tenants. Shared solar arrangements largely rely on deploying limited proprietary technology solutions suitable for sharing arrangements, which can often require extensive remedial electrical work to integrate into apartments and complexes.

Due to the program's funding requirements, implementation challenges and limited potential reach, it was determined the program was not suitable for application in Tasmania, though we remain open to considering similar programs in the future.

This does not diminish the Government's commitment to supporting Tasmania's renewable energy transition or ensuring households can share in its benefits. We will continue to consider opportunities to improve access to affordable and renewable energy for Tasmanians.

Once again, thank you again for raising this matter and I trust this information is useful to both you and Tiffany.

Yours sincerely



Hon Nick Duigan MLC
Minister for Energy and Renewables