



Robyn Parker MP

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

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PORT STEPHENS HOUSEHOLDS GET HELP TO REDUCE ENERGY BILLS

NSW Environment Minister Robyn Parker and the **Local Member for Port Stephens Craig Baumann** are encouraging all Port Stephens' pensioners, veterans and families on a lower income to take part in a free program to save power and money.

Ms Parker and Mr Baumann are meeting with local residents at the Raymond Terrace Neighbourhood Centre this morning, saying now is the time for Port Stephens to get on-board this Program that has already helped more than 178,000 NSW households collectively save more than \$29.5 million a year off their power bills.

"Trained energy experts will be in the Port Stephens region over the coming weeks to help households understand where they use the most power and to provide practical assistance to cut bills," said Ms Parker.

"The NSW Government is committed to supporting lower income households by offering practical solutions to manage rising energy costs.

"One of the practical ways we are doing this is by offering the Home Power Savings Program to eligible households who are struggling with increased power bills," she said.

Local Member Craig Baumann said he welcomed the arrival of the experts to his electorate.

"There are more than 14,000 households in Port Stephens who are eligible for the program and so far around 3000 have taken up the offer," Mr Bauman said.

"I would really encourage all eligible Port Stephens residents who have not joined to sign up this month so that they can benefit from face-to-face expert advice and a kit of household energy saving items," he said.

Colleen Whittle, Manager of the Raymond Terrace Neighbourhood Centre, welcomed the Minister's announcement of the free help on offer.

"We provide a range of programs and services at our Centre with the aim to help local residents who may be struggling with their living costs or need financial advice," said Ms Whittle.

"It makes our job easier to know that there is a program out there that is credible and really makes a difference to our client's bills," she said.

The Minister said that the success of the NSW Government's Home Power Savings Program to-date is largely due to the support received from community stakeholders such as local councils, community organisations and neighbourhood centres in telling their clients about the program.

Home Power Savings Program energy experts will be in Port Stephens, Maitland, Taree and surrounds from 23 April to the end of May as part of a region-by-region campaign to promote the program.

Eligible households across NSW can take part in the program by calling 1300 662 416.

Visit www.savepower.nsw.gov.au/freehelp to find out more about the program.

Media contact: Gabrielle Last (0419 469 367)