



DO SOMETHING!

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MEDIA RELEASE

"PEOPLE POWER" PUT AT RISK BY O'FARRELL GOVT

The 120,00 NSW households that installed rooftop solar panels have built the equivalent of a new 300 megawatt power station. This investment represents the biggest investment in energy generation in NSW in more than a decade.

Families, retirees, pensioners and farmers have funded the development of this 'People Power' station, which is the same as a mid-sized coal fired power plant.

However, recent action by the O'Farrell Government means that each of these 120,000 households will lose up to \$2,000 or more. Furthermore, expansion of this renewable 'People Power' is being put at risk says an alliance of organisations led by the Australian Solar Energy Society and Do Something!.

"Over 7% of owner occupied homes in NSW now have solar panels," said John Grimes, CEO of the Australian Solar Energy Society.

"These households have shown that massive numbers of Australians want to switch from dirty coal fired power to clean power from the sun".

The O'Farrell Government's retrospective changes to solar could kill off these achievements said Jon Dee, the Founder of Do Something! and NSW Australian of the Year 2010.

"By tearing up Government guaranteed contracts that he said he would honour, Barry O'Farrell will be taking an estimated \$450 million from the NSW households who have helped to fund this 'People Power' station".

"These changes are unfair and unjust and need to be cancelled."

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About the Australian Solar Energy Society (AuSES) www.auses.org.au

Since 1954, the Society has worked as a not-for-profit national organisation dedicated to promoting the use of solar energy in Australia. Our members include academics and researchers, the solar industry, and the general public.

About Do Something! www.dosomething.net.au

We are a new type of not-for-profit organisation that brings together the resources of the business community and the goodwill of the Australian public. We work to create and promote positive social and environmental change.

Rather than talk about the problems, we seek to “do something” by:

- building alliances between councils, businesses, government and the community
- identifying problems and then finding answers that achieve measurable benefits for the environment, community and Australian business.