



State Connection

By Nationals Member for Lismore Thomas George MP

May 2011

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Election 2011

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my supporters, workers and those who voted for me on 26 March.

I take this result as an endorsement of the Coalition's policies and the work I have undertaken in the electorate over the past four years.

I am honoured to be able to continue as the Member for Lismore in a new O'Farrell/Stoner Government.

Solar Energy

NSW Labor's solar energy scheme was a scandal. Originally estimated to cost between \$114 million and \$449 million, it is now estimated to cost taxpayers \$2 billion. The scheme was far too generous.

As a result of NSW Labor's Solar scandal and the closure of the Solar Bonus Scheme, NSW no longer has a long-term solar strategy. This is why we will hold a *Solar Summit*. It will bring together industry representatives, energy experts, government, environmental groups and the community to develop a set of agreed actions to ensure the further development of solar energy in NSW.

As of midnight 28 April a two month hold has been placed on new applications pending the result of the Solar Summit Stage One.

The *Solar Summit* will seek to:

- determine the true cost of Labor's bungled solar bonus scheme and identify any opportunities to limit the cost blowouts;
- establish a sustainable future for the NSW solar industry through an affordable and responsible feed-in tariff scheme;
- identify options to better link feed in tariff schemes to market signals and prices;
- investigate opportunities for large scale solar installations in NSW;

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Election 2011
Solar Energy
- 2 Interactive Whiteboards for
Schools
- 3 Woolworths Agriculture
Business Scholarship
Kokoda Youth Leadership
Challenge
- 4 Incorporated Associations
Seminars
Congratulations

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- identify how NSW can best leverage Commonwealth programs and incentives to support a growing solar industry in NSW; and
- identify what the NSW Government can do to further assist the development of the solar industry in NSW, through initiatives such as solar mapping.

A *Solar Action Plan* will be developed as an outcome of the Summit, and a joint Industry - Government Task Force will take responsibility for delivering on the Action Plan.

New Interactive Whiteboards for Schools

Local schools are among the beneficiaries of the NSW government's rollout of new Interactive Whiteboards. The Premier Barry O'Farrell has announced a total of 4,300 of the digital whiteboards will be installed in 1,000 schools across the state.

In the Lismore electorate the Interactive Whiteboards will be installed at:

Albert Park Public School	Bexhill Public School
Blakebrook Public School	Caniaba Public School
Chillingham Public School	Clunes Public School
Coffee Camp Public School	Collins Creek Public School
Crystal Creek Public School	Dungay Public School
Eltham Public School	Goolmangar Public School
Goonellabah Public School	Goonengerry Public School
Jiggi Public School	Larnook Public School
Lismore Heights Public School	Lismore Public School
Lismore South Public School	Manifold Public School
Modanville Public School	Mummulgum Public School
Murwillumbah South Infants School	Old Bonalbo Public School
Rosebank Public School	Rukenvale Public School
Stokers Siding Public School	Stratheden Public School
Tabulam Public School	The Risk Public School
Tregeagle Public School	Tyalgum Public School
Uki Public School	Upper Coopers Creek Public School
Whian Whian Public School	Wiangaree Public School
Wilson's Creek Public School	Woodenbong Central School
Wyrallah Public School	Wyrallah Road Public School

"This major investment in schools means we are giving our students and teachers the best facilities possible to create a great learning environment."

Children in NSW schools should have access to the best technology to aid their learning - that is why we are installing Interactive Whiteboards in classrooms.

We will prioritise this rollout to schools identified on the basis of student learning needs, where the use of Interactive Whiteboards has the capacity to significantly help education outcomes.

This major investment in schools means we are giving our students and teachers the best facilities possible to create a great learning environment.

The rollout is expected to be completed by the start of term one in 2012.

Woolworths Agriculture Business Scholarship

Applications are now open for the 2011 Woolworths Agricultural Business Scholarship Program.

Now in its fifth year, almost 120 students have been through the program which includes business strategy, finance, agricultural economics and supply chain management and planning.

This program is run in conjunction with the University of Western Sydney and the Royal Agricultural society of NSW. It is a 12 day course held from Monday 8 August to Friday 19 August.

Anyone between the ages of 20 and 30 who is either employed in the agricultural or horticultural industry or is in their second or further years of study in an agricultural or horticultural faculty can apply.

Further details are available at www.woolworths.com.au.

Kokoda Youth Leadership Challenge

This program is funded and administered by the various associations representing registered clubs across Australia. It serves to develop and refine leadership skills as well as provide young people with a vivid retelling of what our soldiers endured along the Track.

All costs of travelling to PNG, together with walking the Track and equipment required will be covered by Clubs NSW.

ClubsNSW is looking for two youths, aged between 16 to 22, for the Challenge.

Applications close 8 May and further details can be obtained from www.clubsnsw.com.au in the Community Support section.

Incorporated Association Seminars

NSW Fair Trading will be holding seminars will cover a range of relevant topics on the functions and running of an association including the role of Fair Trading, Statutory obligations, reporting and constitution requirements, the role of the public officer and what to do if there is a dispute.

The seminars will be held in Lismore on Tuesday 31 May from 1.00-2.30pm and 5.30-7.00pm at the Workers Club.

As numbers are limited interested parties are requested to register their preferred seminar venue through the Fair Trading's website event register at www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au or by calling the NSW Government Contact Centre on 133 679 and selecting option 3.

Congratulations

- Bill Berry, Doubtful Creek upon his retirement from the Sextonville Brigade following 17 years as President and 62 years as a volunteer with the Rural Fire Service.
- Arthur Johns, Richmond Hill has been awarded the title of "Legend of the Royal Easter Show" in recognition of his outstanding dedication to the Show and ongoing commitment to agricultural excellence. Also to Arthur and his team on again taking out the District Exhibits Overall Winners title for the seventh consecutive year.
- Ron Chittick, Rosebank & William Noble, Eureka were both given life membership to the Bangalow Show Society.
- Luke Thomas, winner of the Young Auctioneers Competition at the Royal Easter Show. I was honoured to open the Competition this year and to be present to see Luke take out the title.

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