



Barry O'Farrell MP

NSW Opposition Leader

Shadow Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 10 July 2009

NSW LIB/NAT SOLAR POLICY WILL DELIVER JOBS

NSW Opposition Leader and Shadow Minister for Western Sydney Barry O'Farrell and Liberal Member for Baulkham Hills Wayne Merton today toured Modern Solar at Norwest to discuss the jobs growth that will result from the NSW Liberal/Nationals gross feed-in tariff solar policy.

Last month the NSW Liberal/Nationals announced it supports a "gross feed-in tariff" solar energy policy, which is a credit or payment to households, institutions or businesses for all the renewable energy they produce.

Modern Solar, which has sites in Norwest Business Park, Wollongong, Newcastle and on the Central Coast, predicts a gross feed-in tariff policy would allow it to double its solar workforce, adding upwards of 200 jobs to the NSW economy.

"At a time when NSW has the highest unemployment rate in the country because of 14 years of State Labor incompetence we need to do all we can to deliver jobs," Mr O'Farrell said.

"Our gross feed-in tariff solar policy will deliver hundreds of jobs in Western Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong and on the Central Coast," he said.

"Companies in the solar industry have indicated the adoption of a gross feed-in tariff policy will deliver certainty, allowing them to attract new customers and expand business, all whilst helping reduce the state's reliance on non-renewable energy.

"Our policy is a win-win. It will deliver hundreds of additional jobs in areas of high unemployment and will help empower families to reduce their carbon footprint.

"Nathan Rees should stop talking about jobs and start delivering jobs. The best way to do this is by adopting NSW Liberal/Nationals' policies such as our commitment to gross feed-in tariffs, cutting payroll tax by up to 20% and halving lead-in times for major infrastructure projects," Mr O'Farrell said.

Mr Merton said delivering jobs in Western Sydney is essential.

"The Norwest Business Park is an employment hub in Western Sydney and we should be doing everything possible to allow businesses to expand.

"I'm pleased that our gross feed-in tariff policy could see the expansion of the local solar industry and the delivery of hundreds of extra jobs in Western Sydney."

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