



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### SOLAR HOT WATER REBATE STILL \$1600 – FOR NOW

Modern Solar CEO Laurie Mallia said today that many people may have wrongly assumed the Federal Government has slashed the \$1600 rebate for solar hot water systems.

Last weekend, the rebate for home insulation – one of two offerings in the Government's Energy Efficient Homes package, announced in February – was cut from \$1600 to \$1200.

But the rebate for solar hot water systems, the other offering in the Government's package, remains at \$1600 -- at least for the time being, Mr Mallia said.

"The Federal Government has made some sudden changes to its clean energy incentives already this year.

"In June, it aborted the Solar Homes and Communities Plan three weeks early, catching out many Australian households who thought they still had time to order a rooftop solar energy generation unit under the previous regime.

"Then we had last weekend's unexpected cut to the home insulation rebate.

***"My advice to anybody thinking of upgrading to a solar hot water system is get in now before the \$1600 rebate is slashed or abolished suddenly.***

"The sooner you install one of these energy efficient systems, the sooner you'll start saving hundreds of dollars a year on your power bills.

"A solar hot water system saves up to 27% of your bills and may be a much better option than insulation; so look carefully at both products when deciding as you only get the rebate once."

The Solar Hot Water Rebate is available for all owner-occupiers, landlords and tenants who replace an existing electric storage hot water system with a solar or heat pump hot water system, Mr Mallia said.

"The rebate is **not** means tested and is currently scheduled to run until 30 June 2012 – although, as we've seen, that could change without much notice."

Mr Mallia said customers can also lower their purchase costs by taking advantage of state government rebates where applicable and by cashing in the Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) generated when they buy a solar hot water system.

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*Modern Solar is part of The Modern Group - an Australian company employing around 1000 people nationally.*