

ELECTRICITY NET FEED-IN TARIFF — EFFECT OF PHASE-OUT

781. Hon KATE DOUST to the Minister for Commerce:

- (1) Is the minister aware that several solar-panel installing businesses are facing closure or bankruptcy due to this government's short-sighted decision to kill off the net feed-in tariff?
- (2) Under Western Australian legislation, what are the implications for the warranties of homeowners who may have purchased a solar system from one of these out-of-business installers?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for notice of the question.

- (1) I am not personally aware of any individual business in that predicament. I encourage the member to guide any small businesses in difficult circumstances to seek advice from the Small Business Development Corporation on managing through their difficulties.
- (2) Under the provisions of the Trade Practices Amendment (Australian Consumer Law) Act (No. 2) 2010, which commenced on 1 January 2010, the warranty provided with all goods must be honoured by the retailer or, in the event of a business closure, by the Australian importer or manufacturer. Any consumer concerned about their position should contact the Consumer Protection Division for assistance.