



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY
MARISA PATERSON MLA (CHAIR), ANDREW BRADDOCK MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), LEANNE CASTLEY MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by ELIZABETH LEE

Ref: Budget Outlook Paper p 70

In relation to: Concessional loans framework

1. On what basis were rooftop solar and electric vehicles included in the loan scheme?
 - a. On what evidence was the decision based? Please provide a copy of that evidence.
 - b. If no evidence was used to make that decision, why not?
2. When will the interest free loan scheme become operational?
 - a. How will it be advertised?
 - b. What eligibility criteria will apply?
3. Will there be a limit or cap on the number of loans for any particular items – rooftop solar, electric vehicles, battery installation? Provide details.
4. Will assessment be made of an applicant's financial circumstances to determine whether there is an ability to repay the loan?
 - a. If so, who will do that assessment?
 - b. What information will they rely on?
 - c. If no assessment, why not?
5. What are the repayment terms of the loans?
6. As a condition of the loan, will the borrower be required to use local installers or suppliers of solar panels? If not, why not?



CHIEF MINISTER: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Cost benefit analysis of the ACT Government's Solar for Low Income program has demonstrated estimated savings from rooftop solar of, on average, around \$1,500 per year with a 6.6kw system, and a payback period under 5 years.

There has been continued demand for rooftop solar across the ACT including a sharp increase during the last year. Its inclusion in the Scheme will see this momentum continue, support investment that will drive down cost of living and build skills and jobs in the green energy sector.

Increasing electric vehicle (EV) uptake will benefit the environment, economy and the community. Given transport emissions are around 60% of emissions in the ACT, and that EVs are emissions-free in use given the ACT's 100% renewable energy supply, EVs will play a central role in meeting the ACT's emission reduction targets.

Currently, EVs have higher purchase prices than equivalent petrol and diesel vehicles, but much lower operating costs. The Scheme will help to address the upfront cost barrier.

2. The Scheme is scheduled to be open to all Canberrans in Q1 2021-22.
 - a. A communication strategy has been developed and a range of different media will be used to advertise the Scheme. To date a registration page has been set up, with articles in 'Our Canberra newsletter' and Social Media promoting the Scheme and encouraging households to register. Households that have registered their interest will receive updates as further details are finalised.
 - b. Full scheme guidelines have not yet been released, however, an indication of the core eligibility criteria have been made available on the [Actsmart website](#).
3. The cap on loans will be \$15,000.
4. A credit check will be undertaken as part of the assessment process to ensure that applicants are in a financial position to repay the loan.
 - a. This is subject to a forthcoming procurement process.
 - b. As above.
5. The Government is currently finalising detailed terms and conditions. These will be released with the scheme guidelines in May 2021.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No. 33

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6. The Government is currently finalising criteria for installer eligibility. These details will be included in the scheme guidelines to be released in May 2021.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: *23.3.2021*

By the Minister for Climate Action, Andrew Barr

