

Rural and Regional Adjustment (Solar for Rental Properties Rebate Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2025

Explanatory notes for SL 2025 No. 156

made under the

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994

General Outline

Short title

Rural and Regional Adjustment (Solar for Rental Properties Rebate Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2025.

Authorising law

Section 44 of the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994* (the Act).

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

The Queensland Government has a strong focus on delivering households and businesses affordable, reliable and sustainable energy. In support of this, the Queensland Government has committed to a Solar for Rental Properties Rebate Scheme (rebate scheme).

The rebate scheme will provide eligible landlords with rebates up to \$3,500 to install rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on rental properties with the intent to drive down electricity bills for tenants across Queensland.

Landlords of detached dwellings, townhouses and duplexes will be able to participate in the rebate scheme, which is anticipated to benefit about 6,500 households.

The rebate scheme will target eligible Queensland rental properties with existing tenancy agreements to ensure tenants receive immediate cost-of-living relief. New solar PV systems installed under the scheme are estimated to save tenants around \$700 per annum on their electricity bills (depending on their location, the size of the system installed and the tariff structures in place at the time of installation).

Achievement of policy objectives

The Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) can only administer a scheme that is approved and detailed in a regulation.

The policy objective will be achieved by amending the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Regulation 2011* to establish the rebate scheme as an approved assistance scheme under section 11 of the Act.

Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law

The subordinate legislation is consistent with the objectives of the Act. The Act establishes QRIDA primarily to administer assistance schemes that foster the development of a more productive and sustainable rural and regional sector in Queensland.

QRIDA may administer assistance schemes to assist primary producers, small business and other sectors during periods of temporary difficulty or to otherwise benefit the economy. QRIDA can also build its own effectiveness by administering assistance schemes that support and benefit communities in Queensland.

Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation

This subordinate legislation is not inconsistent with the policy objectives of any other legislation.

Alternative ways of achieving policy objectives

QRIDA was established to administer assistance schemes and has extensive experience and expertise in rebate scheme administration. In order for QRIDA to administer the rebate scheme an amendment to the regulation is required by section 11 of the Act.

Benefits and costs of implementation

The Queensland Government allocated \$26.3 million over three years to the rebate scheme from the Queensland Budget 2025-26. In addition, funding of \$4.2 million over 2 years will be met internally to support the delivery of the program.

The rebate scheme is anticipated to benefit around 6,500 rental properties, saving those households around \$700 per year depending on where they live, the size of their solar system and the tariff structures in place at the time of installation.

More broadly, the rebate scheme will support grid stability (due to requirements for demand response), reduce household carbon footprint, contribute to energy security and improve awareness of household energy requirements and costs.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The subordinate legislation has been drafted with regard to, and is generally consistent with, the fundamental legislative principles as defined in section 4 of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*. Potential inconsistencies with fundamental legislative principles are addressed below.

Meaning of eligible solar PV system

Section 4 of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992* requires legislation to have sufficient regard to the institution of Parliament.

The meaning of eligible solar PV system for the rebate scheme references lists of approved products and retailers maintained by the Clean Energy Council. This raises a potential inconsistency in relation to the sub delegation of legislative power to an external document.

Referencing lists of approved products and retailers maintained by the Clean Energy Council is intended to ensure that the solar PV systems purchased and installed meet Australian Standards and allow applicants to participate in the national Small-Scale Renewable Energy Scheme. Duplicating or including these lists in the regulation is not possible and so these lists have been referenced.

Consultation

Queensland Treasury conducted consultation from December 2024 to May 2025 including with relevant Queensland Government agencies and departments, peak bodies and advocacy groups (for the solar industry, landlords and tenants sector), industry accreditation organisations and the Queensland energy distribution Government Owned Corporation in the development of the rebate scheme.

Stakeholder feedback highlighted the challenges and complexities for body corporate approvals and solar sharing technologies, which presented barriers for some renters.

Stakeholders supported eligibility requirements for system designers, installers and retailers to provide additional consumer protections and safety checks and balances, and these views are reflected in the eligibility criteria.

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development (NRMRRD) has assessed the amendment regulation in

accordance with *The Queensland Government Better Regulation Policy* (April 2025) as minor and machinery in nature being a routine task of government. The Office of Best Practice Regulation was notified of this assessment. The Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development and the Director-General of NRMMRRD are satisfied that the regulatory review requirements have been met and have approved an Impact Analysis Statement for publication.

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