

Rooftop revolution for solar hot water

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QUEENSLAND homeowners are bracing themselves for more financial pain following an increase of up to 13.29 per cent for electricity rates.

According to independent business energy price comparison service www.makeitcheaper.com.au, the rise in electricity is equivalent to a hike in annual bills of \$397.

Commercial businesses are hit the hardest where retailers are likely to suffer a crippling increase of up to \$1200 per year.

Australia's largest locally owned solar hot water company EcoSmart is encouraging homeowners to make the switch to a solar water heater to provide immediate relief from escalating power bills.

General manager for EcoSmart Hot Water Romano Bolzon said: "It is well documented that electricity, water and utility bills will rise dramatically this month. The electricity rate rise will put greater focus on what householders can do to reduce their energy usage. Electric water heating accounts for around 30 per cent of the household energy bill and consumes more power than any other appliance in the home.

"Many householders are now seeking smart alternatives like environmental hot water, which will re-invigorate energy savings and energy efficiency in the home. Solar hot water heaters can reduce water heating energy consumption by up to 80 per cent and deliver savings on energy bills over the life of the system."

Federal and State Government rebates and other financial incentives can also shave money off the cost of a new system.

Mr Bolzon added: "When considering the economic advantages of going solar, it is important to take rising electricity prices into consideration. These electricity price rises mean that solar hot water is becoming even better value for the homeowner's hip pocket.

"On a wider scale, renewable energy will reduce base load demand for electricity, creating more efficient energy demand and management and preventing further price increases in electricity. This is why the Government is working to phase out the installation of energy guzzling electric storage

water heaters from 2011 and is another reason homeowners should consider solar hot water," he concluded.

For further information on the EcoSmart range of environmental water heaters, please visit www.ecosmart.com.au or call 133 326.