



# Duncan Pegg MP

Member for Stretton

Media Release

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## **Are you eligible for the new \$330 electricity rebate?**

Southside residents who have a Commonwealth Health Care Card can now apply for a new electricity rebate to save \$330 a year on their energy bills, Member for Stretton Duncan Pegg said.

Mr Pegg said thanks to recent Palaszczuk Government reforms, 157,000 Queenslanders including 58,818 in the Brisbane area can now apply for the rebate through their retailer.

“The rebate will be available from the 1 April, 2017 and I urge those eligible to contact their retailer to apply,” Mr Pegg said.

“The \$330 concession will then be back-dated to 1 January for eligible households, which is great news and will go a long way in helping vulnerable families in Stretton with electricity costs.

“To apply for these concessions households need to call their electricity retailer and provide their Health Care Card or ImmiCard number.

“The Palaszczuk Government is committed to stabilising electricity prices after 43 per cent increases during the Newman-Nicholls government and these reforms are another step forward in helping low-income earners.”

Energy Minister Mark Bailey said the changes were thanks to the Palaszczuk Government’s additional \$170 million investment over four years to expand the current rebate, in response to Queensland Productivity Commission (QPC) findings.

“Reforming the energy concessions framework to improve support to vulnerable customers is a key element of the Government’s response to the QPC’s finding,” Mr Bailey said.

“The Electricity Rebate will continue to be available for eligible Pensioner Concession Card holders, Department of Veterans’ Affairs Card holders or Queensland Seniors Card holders.”

The Palaszczuk Government has also reformed the Home Energy Emergency Assistance Scheme (HEEAS) to make it easier for households to access the Scheme.

“HEEAS helps low-income households who are in short-term financial difficulty because of unexpected, emergency expenses to get back on their feet through a one-off payment of up to \$720 towards their energy account,” Mr Bailey said.

“The HEEAS application form has been simplified and shortened, and is now able to be provided electronically for customers if they wish”.

Further information about eligibility and available assistance for vulnerable Queenslanders is available via 13 QGOV (13 74 68) or visit [www.qld.gov.au/community/cost-of-living-support/concessions/](http://www.qld.gov.au/community/cost-of-living-support/concessions/) ( <http://www.qld.gov.au/community/cost-of-living-support/concessions/> ) or [www.dews.qld.gov.au/electricity/rebates](http://www.dews.qld.gov.au/electricity/rebates) ( <http://www.dews.qld.gov.au/electricity/rebates> )