

Media release

**Dr Sophie Scamps MP, Independent for Mackellar
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When the wind won't blow and the sun won't shine, batteries are the answer!

Today, Dr Sophie Scamps, independent member for Mackellar, has released a policy calling for federal subsidies for residential batteries. Dr Scamps' policy would see the existing Small-Scale Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES) expanded to include subsidies for home batteries.

Australia leads the world when it comes to powering our homes with solar energy. It is one of our great success stories. Solar panels provide households and businesses with cheap, clean electricity, and as prices for solar panels steadily drop, Aussies are putting them on their homes and businesses in ever increasing numbers.

It is one of the reasons why nearly 50% of our energy here in Australia already comes from renewable sources.

But while over 4 million of our homes have solar panels, only around 300,000 have batteries. This mismatch is where the opportunity lies to bring energy prices down, not only for the individual households, but for everyone.

Why, because household batteries can store electricity in the middle of the day when prices are cheap and electricity use is low, and discharge back to the grid during the evening peak periods. This smooths out the demand-supply curve, making energy prices cheaper for everyone.

“For the past three years families and business owners have been telling me that their biggest stress is the cost of electricity. The best way for government to provide cost of living relief is to help families and businesses install solar and batteries. Batteries are the missing piece of the puzzle.”

Under Scamps' policy, households would be eligible for a Commonwealth subsidy for up to a third of the cost of a household battery, capped at \$5,000. With an average sized battery, this will save households between \$1000 and \$1500 a year on their energy bills.

Increasing the number of residential batteries would also have system-wide benefits, including:

- increasing supply at peak times, making electricity prices cheaper for all households and businesses (not just the battery owners);
- improving the resilience of our electricity grid by getting more storage into the system faster and solving the mid-day oversupply of cheap electricity

- through the geographical diversification of storage (so as not to concentrate electricity generation and supply in certain areas only)

The total cost of the subsidy to the federal government would be capped at \$1.5 billion annually, based on a tenfold increase in the current uptake of household batteries.

“Batteries are the most important energy technology of the 21st century. They are reliable, and they are rapidly getting cheaper. I want every Australian to have the opportunity to reduce their power bills to near zero with the use of home batteries,” Dr Scamps said.

Dr Scamps’ policy is backed by the experts. John Grimes, Chief Executive of the Smart Energy Council, said “the best way to help households slash their energy bills is through solar and battery.

"The Smart Energy Council strongly endorses extending the SRES to include support for home batteries.

"We really welcome Dr Sophie Scamps’ strong focus on helping families to reduce cost of living pressures."

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For media inquiries, please contact media@sophiescamps.com.au or call 0481 009 636.